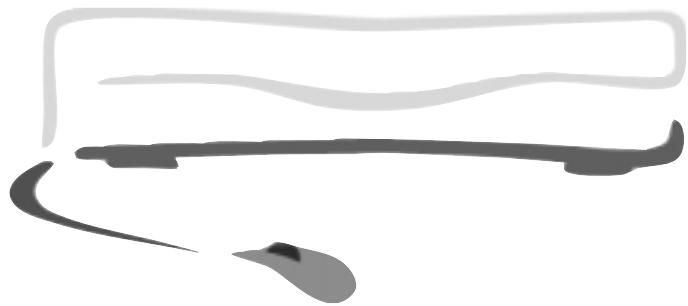


The Casablanca Avio



V e r s i o n 1

C a s a b l a n c a A v i o

O w n e r m a n u a l

f o r V e r s i o n 1

Copyright © 2000 Draco Systems, Inc., Boulder, Colorado USA and MacroSystem Digital Video AG, Wetter, Germany. All Rights Reserved.

Our thanks go out to the many people connected with the creation and production of this owner's manual for the Casablanca Avio nonlinear digital video editor, starting with the original Casablanca creators: Jörg Sprave, president of MacroSystem Digital Video AG, and Eric Kloot, president of Draco Systems, Inc.

Content and design for this manual were provided by Scott Curl and Cory Hodnefield of Draco Systems, and Rafael Dyll of MacroSystem Digital Video. Additional help was provided by Rick Barron, Rob Herron, Justin Philpott and Matt Olson of Draco Systems.

Our thanks go out to the many thousands of Casablanca users who have provided us with suggestions for enhancing the Casablanca learning experience.

Third edition

Boulder, Colorado USA & Wetter, Germany

Draco Systems, Inc.

5485 Conestoga Court

Boulder, CO 80301

USA

telephone 303.440.5311

Avio tech support 303.440.5399

fax 303.440.5322

email info@draco.com

MacroSystem Digital Video, AG

Schöllinger Feld 28

58300 Wetter

Germany

phone +49 (0)2335 960-0

fax +49 (0)2335 960-100

email info@macrosystem.de

V i s i t o u r w e b s i t e s a t :

w w w . d r a c o . c o m

w w w . m a c r o s y s t e m . d e

Getting started	1.1
Settings	2.1
Record	3.1
Edit	4.1
Finish	5.1
Transitions	6.1
I.P. effects	7.1
Titling	8.1
Audio record/edit	9.1
Audio mix	10.1
Appendix A <i>tutorials - making a movie, blue box & keyboard</i>	A.1
Appendix B <i>FAQs and technical info</i>	B.1
Index	I.1

Welcome to the world of Avio

We want to thank you for purchasing the Casablanca Avio video editor. We sincerely appreciate the trust you have placed in our company and our product and we hope you'll soon discover that the Avio meets and exceeds all of your expectations.

We would also like to wish you well on your journey, because soon you will be embarking on quite an adventure; one that will expand your creativity and help you preserve ideas and memories for generations to come. Best of all, the journey will be fun.

It will be fun because the Avio will revolutionize the ways in which you communicate with friends and family members as it helps transform your stacks of home videos into actual movies. It might also radically change your business, allowing you to produce videos in-house or complete projects in a faster, more cost-effective way.

Avio can help you accomplish this because it follows a unique philosophy—your ability to create great video productions should never be hindered by the process of operating the video editor. We have worked hard to simplify every step of the editing process without sacrificing editing features or the quality of the output. By integrating all of the components you need for high quality video editing into a single, easy to use box, we've eliminated the perils of changing configuration settings and the pitfalls of incompatible cards and programs. And the logical design of our editing software protects you from the confusion and technical minutia that can take the fun out of creating a video project.

As this first chapter's title suggests, we'll help you get started by covering what you will find when you first open the Avio box, explaining all of the plugs and cables and introducing you to the buttons and tools you'll find within the software interface. The subsequent chapters will describe all of the ins and outs of all the screens within the Avio interface, and the appendices will actually take you through a simple, step-by-step tutorials that will help you "get your feet wet" as you learn to use your powerful new editor to actually make your own movie.

Congratulations!

You've just purchased most powerful, easy-to-use video editor on the market today. You can use the Avio to turn your birthday, school event and holiday videos into "classic" movies that your friends and family will enjoy viewing over and over again. You'll also have a lot of fun doing it.

But before we jump right into the ins and outs of video editing, let's open up the Avio box and take a look at what you'll find inside.

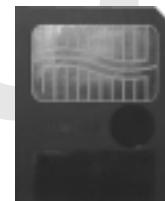
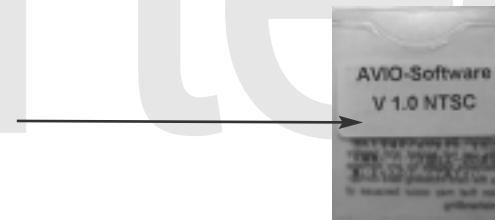
Opening the box

When you first open up the Avio shipping box, you'll notice that the editor is "sandwiched" between two pieces of packaging.

Tip: Please *do not throw this packaging away*; if you ever need to send your Avio in for repair, you'll need this packaging to help keep your machine safe during shipping.

Once you begin to unpack the box, you'll find:

- Your new Avio editor
- A sleeve containing your Avio's system software on a SmartMedia card
- This user manual



- New owner's package info that includes your registration card, a connection poster, product information and warranty options

- A power cable for the Avio



- A trackball

- A Scart adapter to convert the European Scart port on the back of the Avio into Y / C (S-video) and composite (RCA) connectors.



If you think that you're missing one or more of these items, please call your Avio dealer with your missing part information.

Becoming familiar with the external tools and the interface

The Avio features a very straightforward interface. This minimalist approach can help you without limiting the Avio's power; we basically simplified the process so you don't have to simplify your ideas. But before you embark on the editing path, however, let's stop and note some of the basic tools that are used to operate the Avio.

The on/off button

You can turn the Avio on and off by pressing the power button on the front panel, in the upper left-hand corner.



The trackball



Selecting screens and buttons is done with the trackball, a hand-held device that's similar to a computer mouse. Every trackball has at least three key components:

1. The ball, which moves the on-screen pointer and the sliders.
2. The left (Select) button. Use this to select an option once you have positioned the pointer over a button on the screen.
3. The right (Cancel) button. This button can either cancel an operation or return you to the previous screen.

(Note: Your Avio may be equipped with a slightly different style of trackball than the one in the picture to the left, but the basic functions are common to all trackballs.)

The Scart adapter

Since the Avio is used around the world, a variety of connection ports are provided to meet the electronic standards of different countries. The "Scart" ports on the back of the machine, for example, are a type of connector used primarily in Europe. Therefore, an adapter is included with your unit to convert the Scarts into the RCA and S-video ports that are used in the U.S. and other countries.



Buttons



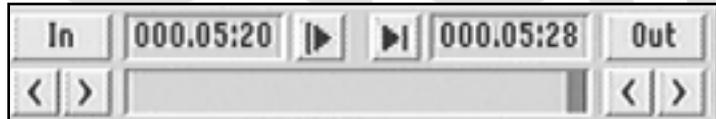
A button is a symbol that you press in order to start a particular operation. Because we try to keep things as simple as possible, the names of most buttons are fairly self-explanatory. Clicking the “Delete” button, for example, will result in the deletion of a selected scene.

Slider / scroll bars



Sliders or scroll bars are bars that allow you to move quickly through a long list effects or a row of scenes in the storyboard. To use it, just click on the slider and the pointer will disappear. Roll the trackball and you’ll scroll through the material on the screen. Click the left trackball button to accept the changed position, or the right button to cancel.

In & out points



These points define the portion of a scene that you want to work with. You can use them to separate the video material that you want to keep in a scene, mark the entry and exit points of a special effect or indicate where an audio segment will begin and end. This is also known as “splitting” or “trimming” scenes or selecting a “range.”

Quick play buttons



Quick play buttons help you edit material at the beginning or end of a scene without having to play through the entire piece. When pressed, they play the first three seconds at the beginning of a scene or the three seconds of video prior to the end of a scene.

Single-frame buttons

Press the “<” and “>” buttons to move the in / out points either forward or backward one frame at a time within your video project.



Up / down

Clicking this type of button once will move the toolbar to the top of your screen (in case it obstructs your view of material on the bottom); clicking it a second time will return the toolbar to the bottom of the screen.



Video control buttons

These buttons record, stop and play your audio and video. The icons we use match those found on most commercial video recorders.



Buttons with selectable options

Buttons with selectable options feature three horizontal lines in the upper left corner. Whenever you click on one of these buttons, a list of several additional options and/or functions will appear.



Tip: Once you've selected a button or option by clicking on it, it then becomes “current” (meaning that it's the one you're working with). The current option is easy to spot because it's always highlighted in blue.

Screen icons



No, we're not talking about James Dean or Humphrey Bogart; these screen icons help you move around quickly in the Avio. Many of the Avio's screens feature a row of icons that represent the recording, editing, and video-setting screens. Clicking on these screen icons will enable you to quickly “jump” directly from one screen to another without having to return to the main Avio screen.

Color selection

You'll have quite few opportunities to select colors while editing on the Avio. The Avio's palette of millions of colors allows you to select any color you need quickly and easily.

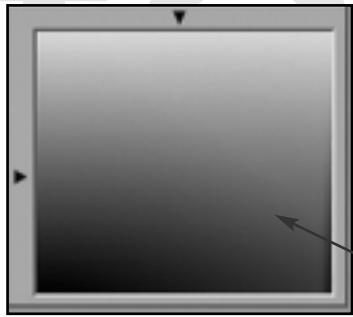
Selector



This allows you to select the main color from the spectrum. Slide left and right, and click left once you have selected the color you want.

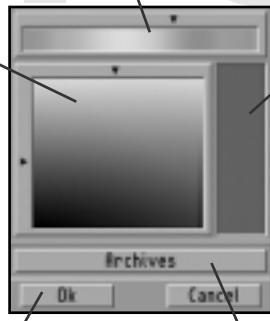
Saturation & darkness

Click here to adjust the saturation and darkness of the color. The pointers to the left and top of the display box will tell you roughly where you are within the color range. Again, once you are satisfied, click left with the trackball to set the color.



Color display

You will see the color you are generating here. It will change as you make adjustments.



Archives

Click here to archive your color for future use (see the next page for more information on archiving).

OK

Ok

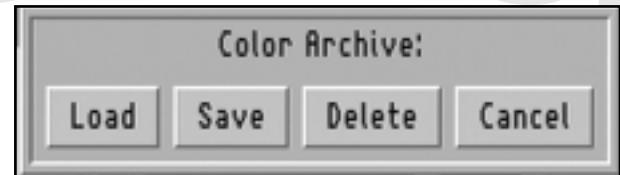
Once you've selected the color you want, click here to return to your editing.

Archiving

Archiving allows you to save colors and text on your Avio and use them again later on, whether it's within the same project or another project. Whether a color or text, your Avio will refer to the Archive entry as a "file."

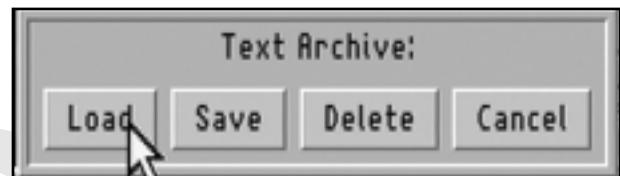
Color archive

This option allows you to save any color you like. With Avio's range of millions and millions of colors, this makes it easy to find the same color over and over again.



Text archive

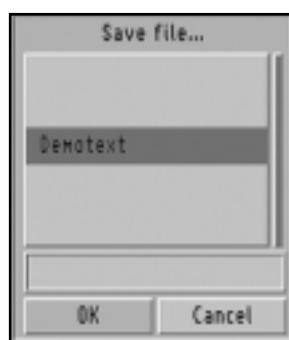
The Text archive appears within the Edit/change text screen and it allows you to save your data and place it on another scene. It's the perfect solution when you've, say, just typed in two pages of text and set the font, color, size, and placement, but then you decide that you'd like the title on a different video scene.



Load



Save



Delete



Here's where you select the color or text file that you want to load.

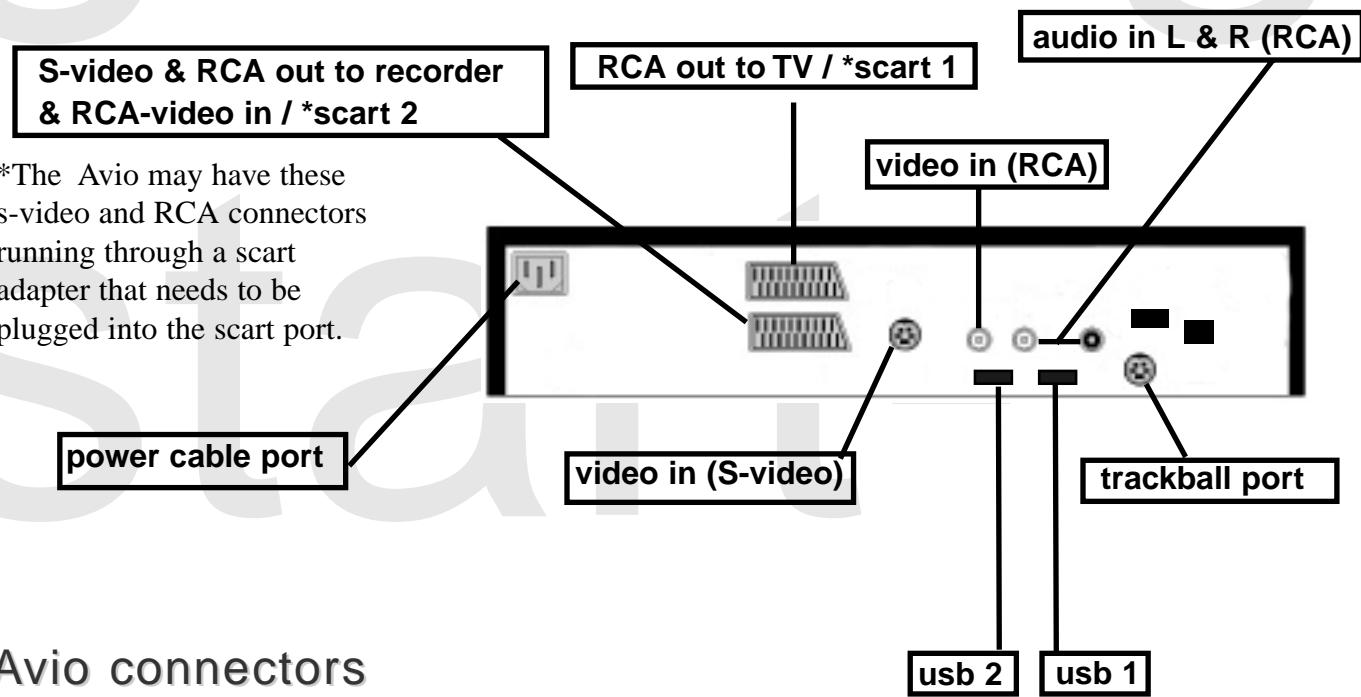
Here you can save your file. Type in the name you would like to call it and click "OK."

Once you select a file here and click "OK," it will be deleted.

Now that we've covered the different types of buttons and tools that operate the Avio, we will illustrate the connection ports that are located on the back of the machine with a diagram and a glossary.

Setting up your Avio

Before you can begin using your Avio to make movies, you need to make sure that it's properly connected to a videotape player (a VCR, camcorder, etc.) and a TV (or video monitor). Don't panic - setting up the Avio is easier than setting the clock on most VCRs. So let's take a look at the back of the Avio editor and examine the different ports and connectors.



Avio connectors

Here's a brief description of each of the main Avio connection ports, starting with the Power cable port in the upper left corner and moving around the machine in a clockwise direction.

Power cable port - This is where you plug in the Avio's removable power cable. The Avio does not have a battery, so it won't run unless it's plugged in.

S-video & RCA out to recorder / scart 2 - This port allows you to run video out to your video tape recorder (such as a VCR or camcorder) with either S-video cables or RCA cables (depending upon whichever type your video tape recorder accepts) and bring an RCA feed into the Avio.

RCA out to TV / scart 1 - This port allows you to run video out to your TV set (or monitor) with RCA cables. You need to hook up the Avio to your TV set in order see the software interface.

Video in (RCA) - This is where you can bring video from your VCR or camcorder into the Avio.

Audio in L & R (RCA) - This is where you connect RCA cables to bring the sound in from your camcorder, VCR or CD player.

Avio connectors (continued)

Trackball port - This is the port that your trackball connects to. Make sure that you plug your trackball into the correct port (and not the similar-looking s-video port near the middle of the machine); otherwise, you will not be able to operate the Avio editor.

USB 1 - This is where you can attach an external USB keyboard (optional).

USB 2 - This is an additional USB port for future product developments.

Video in (S-video) - this is where you would plug in an S-video cable to bring video into the Avio from an SVHS player, camera or deck.

Now that we've examined the various ports and connectors on the back of the Avio, we can sort out the cabling "alphabet soup" and cover the differences between RCA cables and S-video cables.

RCA cables



RCA cables are connection cables that can carry audio and video into, and out of, nearly any A/V device. With red and white caps typically surrounding the right and left plugs, they are also the type of cables that most people are familiar with, primarily because of their widespread use (they are included with nearly all consumer audio and video devices).

RCA cables are also called "CVBS" or "Composite" cables, due to the fact they combine several separate video signals into a single feed.

S-video cables

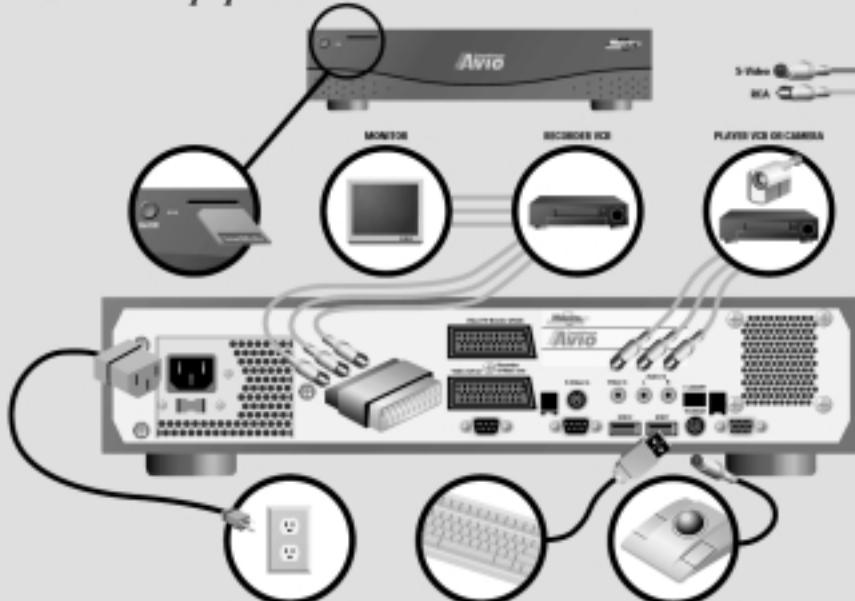
Although S-video cables are less common than RCA cables, they do offer a superior quality transmission. The reason is that rather than combining the different video signals into one feed (like RCA cables do), S-video cables carry each signal separately.

S-video cables are also known as "Y/C" cables.

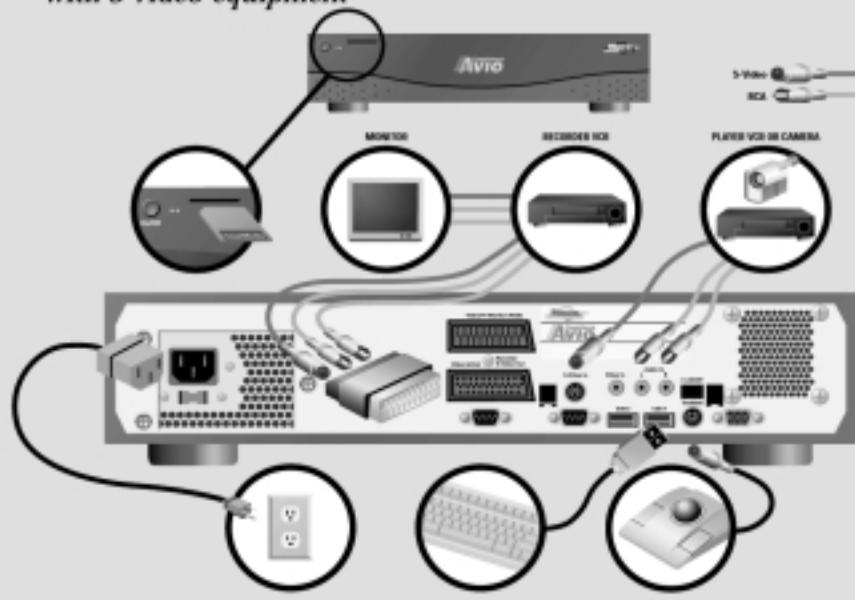


Making the connections...

with RCA equipment



with S-Video equipment



Installation

Installing the SmartMedia card



SmartMedia card sleeve



SmartMedia card (top)



SmartMedia card bottom

Installing software on your Avio is very easy, whether it is your System Software or new effects, all software will be loaded via the SmartMedia card port on the upper left of the front of your Avio. Although your Avio will already have the System software loaded when you receive it, but you may need to reinstall the software or add updates and supplemental software packages in the future.

To load a SmartMedia card into your Avio, make sure the Avio is off and insert the SmartMedia card with the small corner notch first (and on the left,) with the copper side facing down.

You will then be presented with a few screen prompts.

Once you have clicked through the prompts, the software will install, you will be prompted to remove the SmartMedia card, and your Avio will restart. You are now ready to edit.

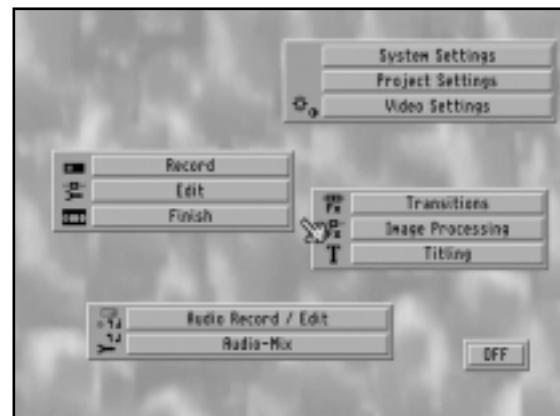
Jumping in

Now we've covered the software installation and the interface controls, we'll turn our attention to the Avio's screens.

As you can see, the Avio's Main screen (shown to the right) is divided into four areas. Starting in the upper-right corner are the System Settings, Project Settings and Video Settings screens. To the lower left are the Record, Edit and Finish screens. To the lower right are the Transitions, Image Processing and Titling screens. And to the lower left are the Audio Record/Edit and Audio Mix screens.

In the chapters that follow, we'll examine each of these screens in order, starting with the Settings screens.

The Main screen



Personalize your Avio

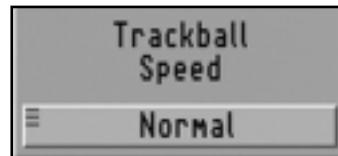
Being able to identify and understand the different components of the Avio is a big step on the way to becoming comfortable with editing, but there is no substitute for direct experience. So after you study the next ten chapters that break down the Avio's interface, we've provided a tutorial in Appendix A that will walk you through the movie-making process from start to finish. Once you've tried a few "practice runs" with the tutorial, we encourage you to return to these following ten chapters as a reference guide when you begin to create your own movie projects.

Now let's explore each feature of the machine in a little more detail. What better place to start than the Settings screens, which allow you to make adjustments to the ways in which the Avio will operate and "personalize" the machine.

Would you prefer, for example, that all of the Avio's buttons and instructions appear in Spanish? Not a problem - just one click of the trackball button can make it happen.



While we're at it, what about that trackball, anyway? Does it move your cursor a bit too fast for your taste? Make an adjustment to the trackball speed and it will slow down to the speed you like.



The settings screens are where you can truly make the machine your own, so it's important that we get all of the settings right before we start editing. This chapter will cover each adjustment you can make in the System, Project and Video Settings screens.

Overview

The Avio has three different screens that enable you to adjust and fine-tune the settings that help you edit video. The **System settings** screen is where you set the parameters of your machine, the **Project settings** screen is where you modify the details of the movie you are working on and the **Video settings** is where you adjust the appearance of your incoming video.

System settings

This is where you can set some general system parameters before you start working with the Avio. These adjustments tend to be one-time only modifications; so with the exception of software installation, you probably won't return to this screen very often.

Language

Here you can select the language for your Avio.

Install product

Install Product

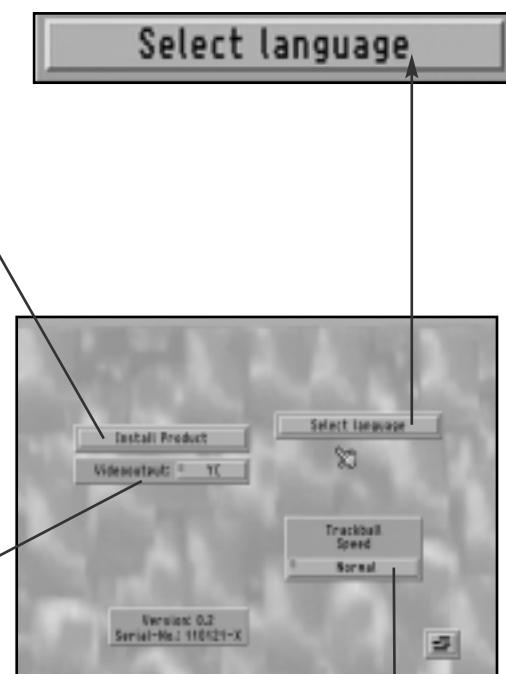
This button allows you to unlock and install additional software (such as the “Blue box” and other effects) that you can purchase for your Avio.

Video output

Videooutput: Y/C

This determines the output of your Avio movie. Y/C (if you have an S-Video cable connection) or CVBS (if your connection is through standard RCA, or “composite,” cables).

Select language



Trackball speed

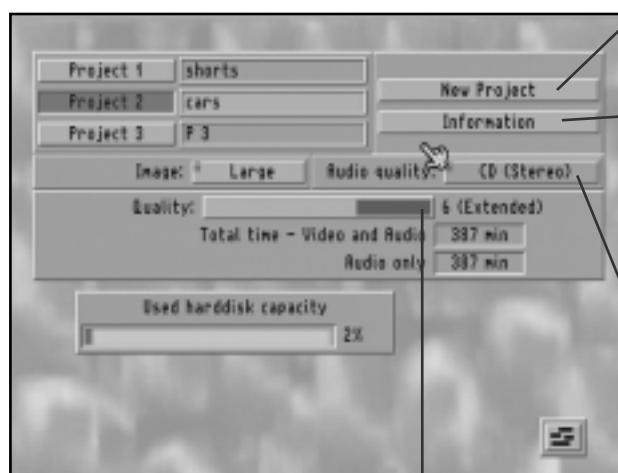
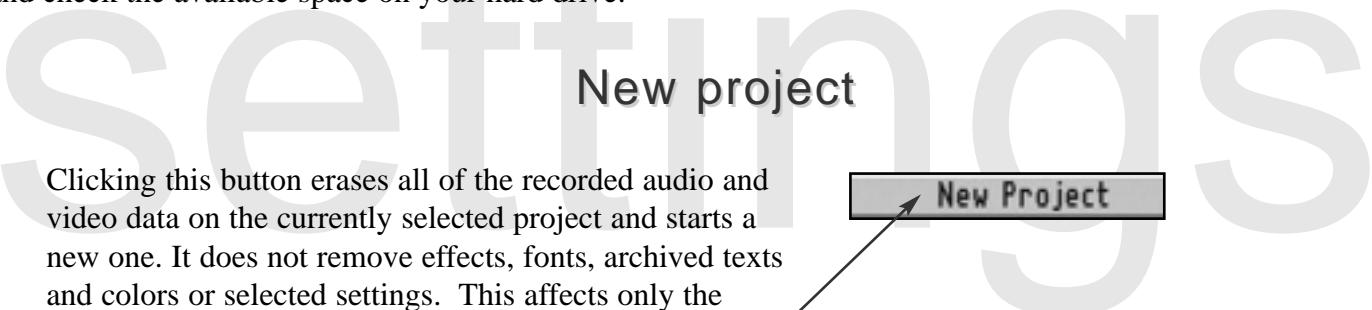
Trackball
Speed

Normal

Here you can select the speed at which that the trackball moves the pointer around your screen.

Project settings

This is where you adjust the settings for the specific project that you're working on, such as the screen size and the overall quality of your picture and sound. You can also see how much material has been recorded and check the available space on your hard drive.



Video quality



Here is where you can select a setting to adjust the quality of your video. If you've already started a project, you will only be able to choose from the three quality settings within your current range, not six. Generally speaking, the higher the quality setting, the more hard-drive space it will require.

New project



Information



Audio quality

Audio quality can be set to one of three levels:

VCR Mono 20Hz - 14kHz

HiFi-Stereo Stereo 20Hz - 14kHz

CD-Quality Stereo 20 Hz - 20kHz

Note: you cannot change the audio quality once a project has been started.

Although the highest setting does produce CD-quality sound, most camcorders and VCRs can't record at that level. Therefore, you can normally use one of the lower settings without an appreciable loss of sound quality. As is the case with the video settings, higher audio quality means less hard drive space. Sound can require up to 170 Kbytes/second, using all three audio tracks. Therefore, we recommend using the "Hi Fi (Stereo)" setting.

Project selection

The Avio provides you with the option of having up to three separate projects in progress at any given time. When you start an editing session, you'll want to come here first and select which of the three projects you would like to work on. The rest of the options in this panel set the parameters for the current project (these will need to be set for each of the projects). Once a project has begun, most of the options in this screen will be locked in, and can't be changed until you begin a new project.

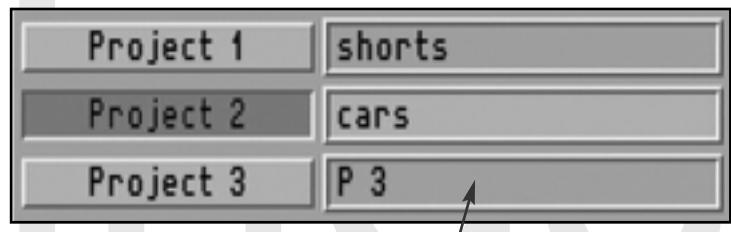
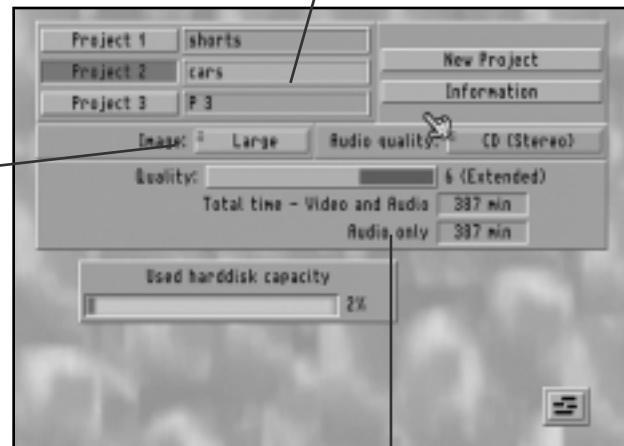


Image size

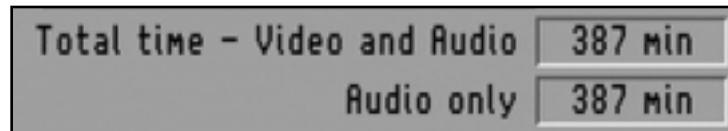
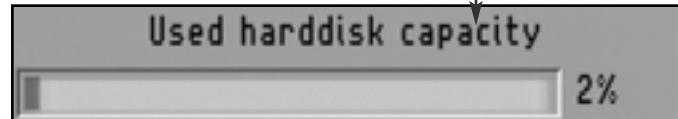


This determines the size of the recorded video picture. We recommend that you first try a setting of "Large." A few cameras, however, are not able to always record images that are as large as the Avio's "Large" image display setting. If this is the case, a black border may appear around these images. To correct this, select a smaller Image size setting on the Avio and the borders will vanish.



System capacity

This bar indicates just how much of your Avio's hard drive is occupied by audio and video (red) and how much drive space is still available (green). The Total time figures tell you how many minutes or seconds you still have within the quality setting you selected (keep in mind that this number is an estimate, and the ratio of video to audio may vary during a production).



Video settings

Within this screen you can directly influence the video signal as it's being recorded onto the Avio's hard drive. You can make additional corrections to the video once the recording has been done but if you want to achieve the best results, it's better to have a good signal from the start. Making changes afterwards has its limitations; despite your corrections, a picture that's initially too dark will never be as crisp and bright as it would if it had been digitized within the right parameters.

Adjustment controls

These sliders allow you to change your incoming video's brightness, contrast and saturation. Once these are set, they will remain in effect until you reset them. This is important to remember if you are bringing in video from different sources and tapes, because you will probably want to set this each time the quality of the incoming video changes.



Input indicator

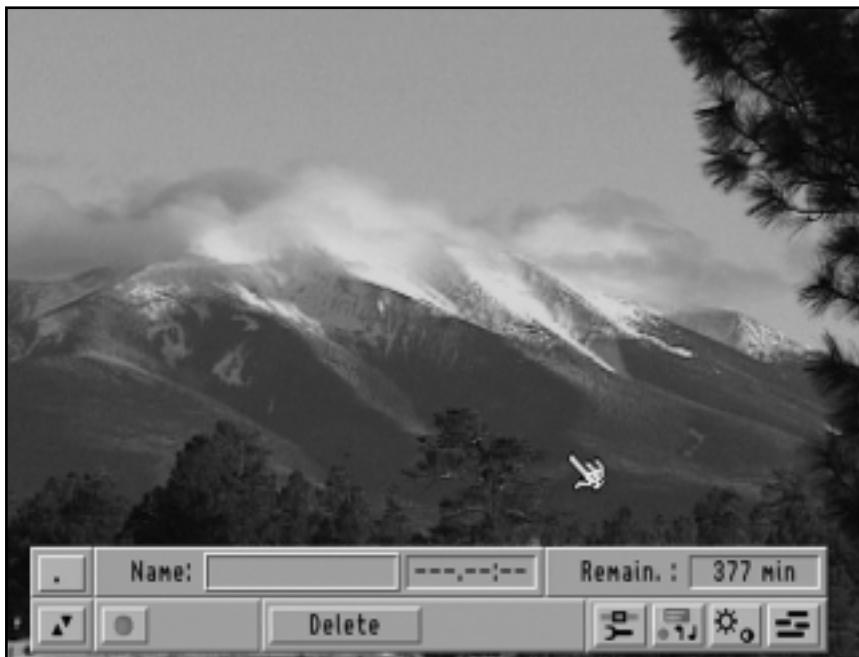


Here you can change the type of the active audio/video input. The Avio has several input options - CVBS (RCA video + RCA audio cables), YC (SVHS+RCA audio cables) or Scart.

How do I get my video into the Avio?

Before you can begin to “edit” and then “play,” as our slogan suggests, you have to record. And while you can’t physically place your video tapes inside the Avio, recording the footage from those tapes onto the Avio’s hard drive is a snap.

Once you’ve connected your Avio to a video player (which can be a VCR, camcorder or video deck), you enter the Avio’s record screen (below),



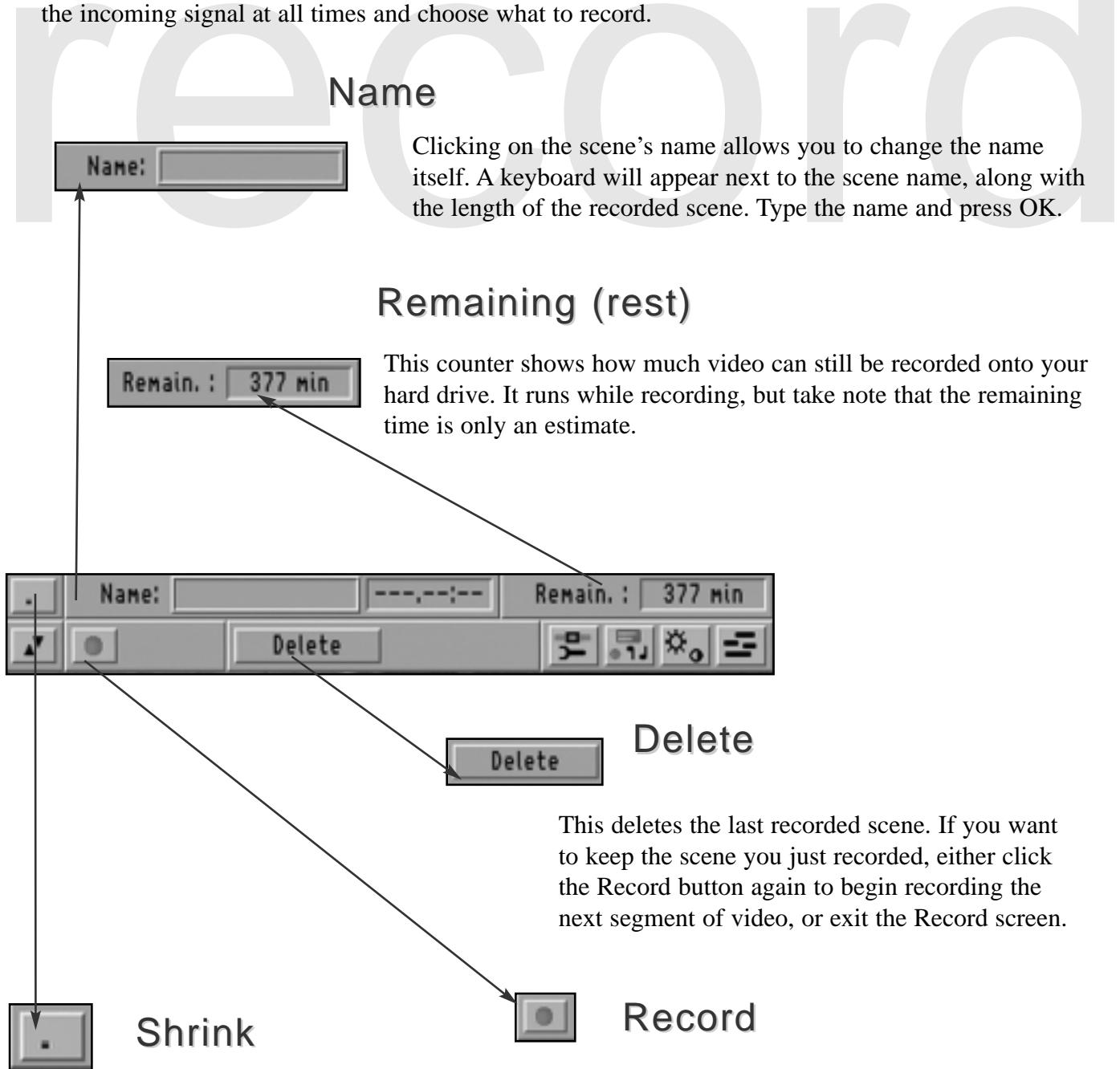
press the Play button on your video player and click the Avio’s on-screen Record button. Whenever you want to stop recording, press the Avio’s Stop button and then press the Stop button on your video player. You’ve just recorded your video (now called a “Scene”) into the Avio!

Editing video that you’ve recorded onto the Avio is a **non-destructive process**, which means that all of the changes you make to your footage are made to *digital copies* of what you recorded. Not only is your original videotape unharmed, but the initial recording onto the Avio’s hard drive will remain intact as well. That way, you don’t have to re-record the footage if you happen to change your mind about some of your edits.

Although recording is easy to do, it’s important to know the different components involved in the process. This brief chapter outlines all of the tools that you’ll find in the Record screen.

Overview

Within this screen, you can record your video material onto your Avio's hard drive. The Record control bars are placed on top of the video signal (like the Video settings control panel). You can watch the incoming signal at all times and choose what to record.



Clicking on this button makes most of the record control bar disappear from view, leaving you with only the Record and Up / down buttons (this allows you to see most of your image without obstruction). You cannot record when the toolbar has been shrunk. If you want the toolbar to return to its normal appearance, just click the Record button.

Press this button to start recording your video footage into the Avio. Notice that when you do this, most of the Record control bar disappears, leaving you with only a Stop button (this allows you to see as much of your incoming video as possible without the controls getting in the way).

Once you've recorded the video you need, click Stop and the main Record control bar will return.

The heart of the machine

The Edit screen is where you’re likely to spend most of your time when making your movie. It’s where you split your video footage into separate scenes, trim them, add special effects, name the new scenes and place them in the order in which you’d like them to appear in your final movie. The Edit screen really is the “heart” of the Avio.

This movie assembly takes place in the Edit screen’s “storyboard.” The concept behind the storyboard is nearly as old as the film industry itself. Since the advent of the modern movie, filmmakers have used a storyboard to help organize the layout of their project.

A good storyboard allows a director to quickly review nearly every stage of a movie by displaying each individual scene (usually represented by the scene’s first frame) in order, providing an album of snapshots of the final film. Traditionally, the storyboard would actually be a large board composed of hand-drawn pictures that represent every scene. As a result, the storyboard would often look like a large comic-strip version of the film.

The Avio modernizes this time-honored concept with its own digital storyboard. Within this storyboard, scenes are represented by their names and the first frame of the scene; the playing order is from left to the right. As you begin to assemble your scenes in the storyboard, you actually see your movie “grow” from the opening title sequence to the final shot.

One way to conceptualize editing with the Avio is to imagine an artist creating a painting. The source video that you recorded onto the Avio from tapes can be thought of as the “paint.” When that source video is recorded onto the hard drive and edited, it is like an artist placing paint on a palette and mixing it to form a variety of new colors. Now, just as the artist would take the colors from the palette and arrange them on a canvas to create a painting, you will take your scenes from the scene bin and move them up to your “canvas,” the storyboard, to create your movie project.

This chapter will describe all of the functions and features that you will use as you begin to create a movie within the Edit screen.

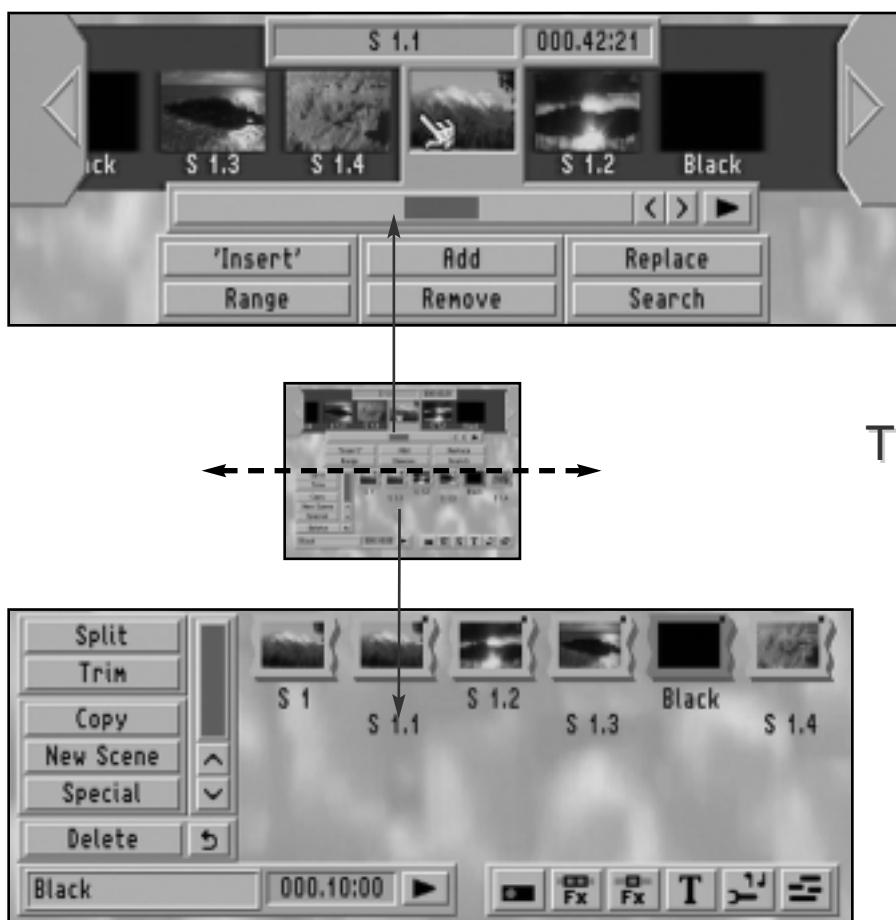
Overview

The Edit screen is where you're likely to spend most of your time when editing a video. It is here that you'll make changes to your scenes and build your movie in the storyboard.

Click the Edit button on the Main screen to enter the Edit screen. The top portion of this screen contains the **storyboard** and the bottom half features the **scene bin**. You will see a series of small, framed pictures in the scene bin; these small icons are representations of your recorded scenes. Every scene you record on the Avio will appear in this area, although you can only see up to 12 scenes at any given time. You can view the other scenes by using the scroll bar to move through the scene bin.

The storyboard

The upper portion of the Edit screen contains the storyboard and its assembly functions. Here, you can select the edited scenes from the scene bin and use them to construct your movie. The control buttons in this area all act only on the scenes in the storyboard.



The scene bin

The lower portion of the Edit screen contains the scene bin, which stores and controls your video scene clips. Here you may split, trim, and add effects to the raw scenes themselves. Once you've finished all of the splitting and trimming changes that you want to make, the scene is ready to add to the storyboard as part of your final movie.

Now let's take a more in-depth look at these two main sections of the Edit screen, beginning with the scene bin, followed by the storyboard.

Within the scene bin

The scene bin is made up of several components: The scene area, the scene-info display and the scene editing controls.

The scene area



Recorded scenes automatically appear here, in the scene area. Once your recorded scene appears, you can use the editing controls on the left to change its length, motion and appearance before placing it in the storyboard. The most recently recorded scenes will always appear at the end (the bottom right) of the list of scenes.

Up to 12 scenes can be viewed in the scene bin at any one time. If you have more than twelve scenes, use the slider or the up and down arrows to scroll through the bin.

The scene info display

This displays the name and length (in minutes, seconds and frames) of a highlighted scene. To rename a scene, highlight it and then click on its name in the yellow display box. An on-screen keyboard will appear. To delete the old scene name, use the backspace key (the arrow pointing left in the upper-right corner of the keyboard). Click on the keyboard buttons with the left trackball button to enter the new scene name. Clicking on "OK" confirms your changes and closes the keyboard window.



The scene editing controls

These controls open up separate functions that enable you to change your scene's length, content, motion and appearance. You can also create "New scenes" (color bars, countdown and solid colors) that can be added to your movies or delete scenes from the scene area.



Let's explore each individual control button within the panel in greater detail.

Scene editing controls

Copy button

This button makes a duplicate copy of any highlighted scene in the scene bin. A scene may be copied as often as you like without using up any additional hard drive space. One benefit of copying is that you can alter the copy as much as you like without affecting the original.



Scroll bar / up and down arrows

Although you can store an unlimited number of scenes in the Avio's scene bin, you can only see up to 12 on display at any given time. So if you've recorded more than 12 different scenes, use the slider bar or the up and down arrows just below the slider to scroll through all of the recorded footage in the bin.

Undelete button

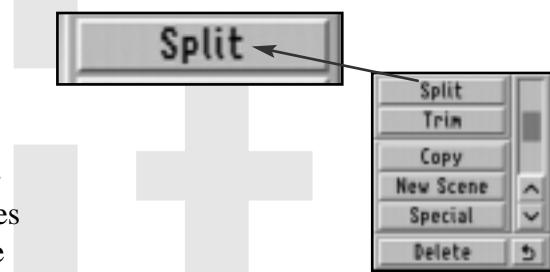
Clicking the Undelete button restores the ten most-recently deleted scenes to your scene bin area. The recovered scenes will appear at the end of your scene bin.

Delete button

You can delete a scene from your scene bin at any time. A selected scene (its frame will be highlighted in blue) can be removed from your scene bin by pressing the Delete button. Although the scene disappears from your screen, it may remain on your hard drive. Clicking the Undelete button restores up to the last 10 deleted scenes.

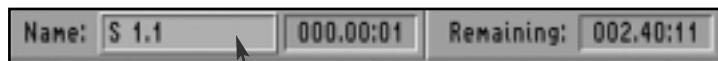
Split

The Split function allows you to cut a video scene into numerous shorter scenes. Once you split a clip, you will still have the original scene (named “S1,” for example) *and* a number of new scenes (named “S1.1,” “S1.2,” etc.) that are “pieces” of the original. The lengths of these scenes are determined by you while you are splitting the scene.

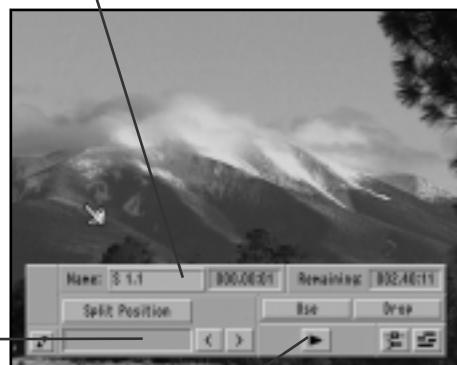


Split display

This displays the name and duration of the scene that's being split. Notice that the duration always begins at 1 frame; this time will increase as the Split position is set. The remaining time in the original scene that you are splitting is displayed at the right.



Split position, use & drop



Clicking on “Split Position” allows you to begin “splicing” pieces out of a video scene. When you click this button, the bulk of the Split screen toolbar disappears; this lets you see as much of the image as possible. The only tools you will see are a blue bar that increases as you scroll right and a duration meter displaying the amount of time remaining in the original scene.

Scroll the trackball to the right, and you will notice you are scrolling through the video, and that the blue bar below increases. Once you reach the point where you want the video to stop playing, click the left trackball button (this sets the split position). If you're unhappy with your choice, you can click Split position again, and reset it. Once this is set, you must indicate if you want to keep the section you've selected (click Use) or discard it (click Drop).



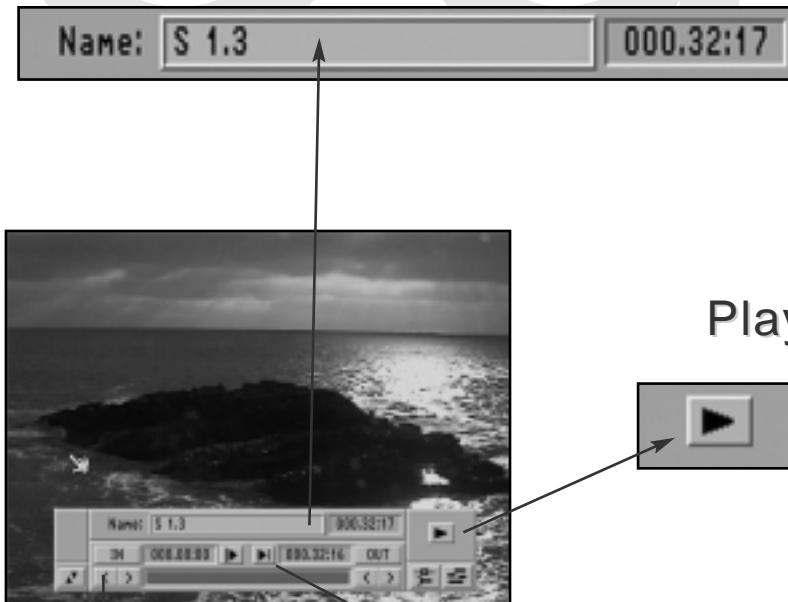
Play

This button will play the segment you selected with the Split Position tool. If haven't split the scene yet, this will play the entire scene. Once the split position has been moved, however, it will play only the segment represented by the blue bar just beneath the Split Position button.

Trim

Trim allows you to manipulate the In and Out points of the highlighted scene so you can decide at what points the scene will start and stop playing. Once trimmed, the scene will run according to those points every time the scene is played in the scene bin, and in the storyboard, once added there. These changes are not permanent. If you're not happy with changes you've made, you can always highlight the scene and Trim it again (and then remember to replace the scene in storyboard, if already added).

Display



This tells you the name of the scene you are trimming (which, in this case, is "S1.3") and the scene's overall length. Notice that the length of the scene changes as you alter the In and Out Points.

Play

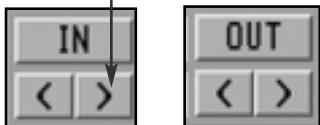


This button will play the segment you trimmed with the In and Out buttons. If you haven't trimmed the scene, this will play the entire scene. If you are unhappy with your choices, the In and Out points can always be changed.



Quick play

In & out



These buttons will play either the first three seconds after the In point or the last three seconds before the Out point. This can be useful when selecting the trim points, especially the Out point (it allows you to check the Out point without having to view the entire clip).

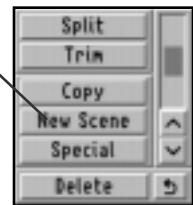
Clicking these buttons allows you to change the In (beginning) and Out (ending) points of a scene. Once you click on In, scrolling right with the trackball will take the In point further into the scene. Once you click on Out, however, scrolling to the right takes the Out point toward the scene's original ending. Scrolling left with the trackball moves the In point back toward the original start of the scene, while scrolling left once you've clicked on Out moves toward the beginning of the scene. (Notice that the duration of the scene changes as you manipulate the In and Out points.)

The arrow buttons just below the In and Out buttons allow you to change the end points one frame at a time. The blue bar between the In and Out buttons shows how much of the scene is currently selected. Notice as you scroll either the In or Out points, the bar gets changes length, accordingly.

The New Scene

New scenes (“empty scenes” that contain no video images— just colors, color bars or other digitally generated material) are great for introductions, end-credit backgrounds and leaders for movies. You can create a New scene by clicking on the New scene button and then scrolling through the list of scene options to pick the one you want. Then you need to set the parameters and length and click the OK button. The new scene will be created and added to your Scene area.

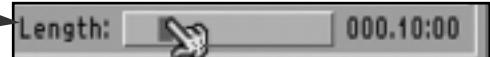
New Scene



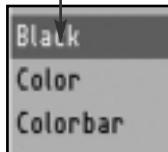
Modifiers

This area will display the customizable parameter options for the new scene, if there are any. These will vary, depending on which New Scene option is selected.

Length



This slider allows you to customize the length of the New scene. If you need a scene that is longer than the slider will allow, make more than one scene and add them together on the storyboard.



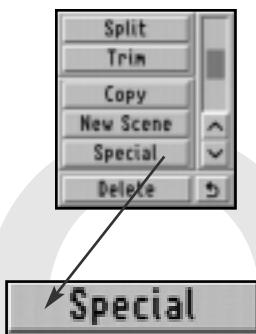
New scenes

“Black” creates a black video scene.

“Color” allows you to create a scene composed of a solid color from the color box.

“Color Bar” creates a striped test picture according to the CCIR standard. Most professionals use about 10 seconds of color bars before the actual video begins.

“Countdown” creates a scene with a “countdown clock” that can serve as an opening before your movie begins.



Special

The Special option allows you to add an incredible number of special effects to scenes that are selected within the Scene area. Once you pick out the effect you want and add it to your video, a new scene is created that combines your original video with the effect. This new scene appears in the scene bin next to the original video scene. Thus, your original, unaltered scene is still available just as you shot it in case you don't care for the effect.

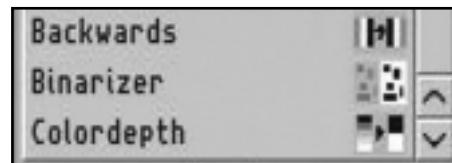
Special effects are ideal for placing multiple effects on a single scene. While most of the Special effects are identical to the effects in the Image Processing screen (see Chapter 7), they are applied in different ways. The Special effects can be applied to video clips within the Scene area, while the Image Processing screen effects are only applied to scenes that you've placed in the storyboard. Special effects scenes can be adjusted with the other Scene editing controls (they can be split, trimmed, etc.)

Below, we cover the Special options that are unique to the Special screen, then we'll cover the I.P. effects that can be accessed through both the Special and I.P. screens.

Special motion effects and i.p. options

Backwards

- Any scene can be made to run in reverse. Just select the Backwards option, click on OK and the Avio will automatically begin building a new scene from the scene selected in the scene bin. After the new scene has been rendered, it will appear in the scene bin with the same name as your original scene plus a suffix of “_BW.” This lets you know at a glance that this is your backwards scene. Note that both the video and the sound is affected when the backwards effect is applied to the scene. (You can always mute the audio in the Audio Mix screen once the scene is added to the storyboard. We'll talk more about Audio mixing in Chapter 10.)



Jitter - To create a “jittery” strobe effect, select the Jitter option and adjust the slider to set just how long the Avio should hold each frame. A setting of 4 means that one frame will stay on the screen while the next four frames are skipped. A setting of 3 means that the first frame is held, and the next three frames are skipped, and so on. There is no preview available for this effect.

Quick motion - This will generate a new scene that's a sped-up version of a video clip. Once you select a scene and the Quick motion button, you need to set an acceleration factor (two times as fast, three times as fast and so on), then click the OK button. Once the scene has been created, the new scene will appear in your scene bin bearing the suffix “_QM,” indicating that it is a quick-motion scene. To improve your resolution, use lesser values. There is no preview available for this effect.

Slow motion - This option creates a scene copy that is identical to the original except that it runs more slowly. The “slowness rate” or Delay can be set with the slider: A high rate (10) leads to an extremely slow version 10 times the length of the original, while the lowest rate (2) creates a scene that’s only twice as long as the original. The scene’s original sound is also played in slow motion, but you can mute it in the audio mix screen once the scene is added to the Storyboard. The new slow motion scene will appear in your scene bin with the suffix “_SM,” indicating that it is a slow motion scene.

Scene -> sample - This option creates an audio sample (like a sound bite) from a scene’s audio, making it possible for you to use the audio sample elsewhere in your movie. Once you select a scene and click this button, the scene’s sound will appear in the list of audio samples in the Audio/record and Audio/mix screens. From there, you can work with it as you would with any other audio sample.

Still scene - The Avio can create perfectly stable still shots from any point in any scene. Select a scene and the first frame will become a still once you click on the “Still” button. If you want a still of a frame that’s located further into the scene, you can make a copy of the original scene, then trim it down so that the precise frame that you want is the starting point. Note that a still frame does not have sound.

Image processing effects - Each of the remaining effects (such as “Binarizer,”) can also be found within the Image Processing screen. Each of these effects will have its own set of variable parameters that you can select, most of which are self-explanatory. Perhaps the best way to familiarize yourself with what each effect actually does is to experiment with each one on your own - it’s a lot of fun, and you can be as creative as you want with the effects.

Special controls: Preview, OK & Cancel

Preview

This lets you preview the selected effect without actually affecting the scene itself. Not all effects can be previewed.

OK

Clicking on this button creates (renders) the new special effect scene that you assembled (the original scene plus the effect) and returns you to the main Edit screen.

Cancel

Cancel exits the special menu without changing anything. Clicking the right trackball button has the same effect.

Within the storyboard



The concept behind the storyboard is as old as the film industry itself. Filmmakers have always used a storyboard to help organize the layout of their project. A good storyboard allows a director to quickly review every stage of a project by displaying each scene (usually represented by the scene's first frame) in order, providing an album of snapshots of the final film. Traditionally, the storyboard was a large board composed of hand-drawn pictures that represent every scene.

Within the Avio's storyboard, scenes are represented by their names and the first frame of the scene; the playing order is from left to the right. You can jump to the first and last scenes in the storyboard by clicking the large triangle-shaped buttons to the left and right of the storyboard, respectively. You can also move through the storyboard by clicking the small scene-by-scene arrows (< >) above the Replace button, or by clicking on the slider bar to the left of the scene-by-scene arrows.

The workbox



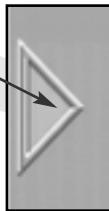
The active scene is displayed in the Workbox. To make changes to a scene in the storyboard, you must get the scene into the Workbox. All of the storyboard functions will affect the scene that is in this box.

Please note that the scenes in the storyboard are merely representations or "snapshots" of the actual scenes in the scene bin. If you trim or even delete a scene that's in your scene bin, it will have no effect on your storyboard. To incorporate any scene changes made in the scene bin you need to replace the storyboard scene with the altered scene, since you can't edit a scene that's in the storyboard.

Replace

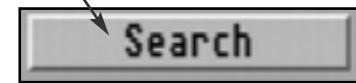
Replace

Press this button to remove the current storyboard scene and replace it with the selected (blue-framed) scene from the scene bin.



Beginning / end

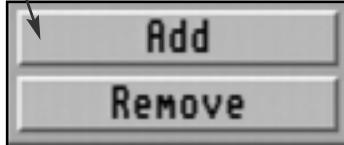
Clicking the large arrows on either side of the storyboard will take you to the beginning (the left arrow) or the end (the right arrow) of your storyboard.



Search

This button will locate the original clip of the scene in the workbox. Let's say that you would like to re-trim a scene that's in the storyboard. Place the storyboard scene within the workbox and press Search. The Avio will locate the scene within the scene bin that has the same name (if you haven't already deleted this scene or renamed it). Once it's found, you may trim that scene down, return to the edit screen and press Replace.

Add and Remove



You place a scene into the storyboard by selecting the scene from the scene bin that you want to add (it becomes framed in blue) and pressing the Add button. The scene will then appear within the gray workbox. When you add a scene next to the first scene in the storyboard, you will need to indicate whether you want the new scene to be placed in front of (to the left) or behind (to the right) the scene in the workbox. All other scenes will be automatically added after the current workbox scene.

The Remove button removes the scene in the gray workbox.

Insert & range

Your Avio features Insert editing capabilities. What's insert-editing? Well, say you have a scene on the storyboard that is an interview of a person who begins talking about her parents. At that point, you would like the video to cut to a shot of the parents, but you still want the audio from the original scene (the person talking) to continue playing. The Insert function allows you to insert a scene within another, without affecting the original scene's audio.

To use the Insert, place your original scene in the Workbox, and the scene that will be inserted in the scene bin below.

When you click Insert to insert a new scene (or click "Range" to adjust a previously inserted scene), you will be presented with the menu to the right.



Start



Click here to select the point at which the inserted scene will begin playing over the original scene. Notice that as you scroll right you move through the original scene. Once you have found the desired point, left-click to set the starting point. You will notice that the menu bar will condense as you set the start point. The arrows to the right allow you to adjust the start point frame-by-frame. The display to the right shows the name of the original scene, and the counter displays the time into the original scene that the starting point is currently at.

In & out



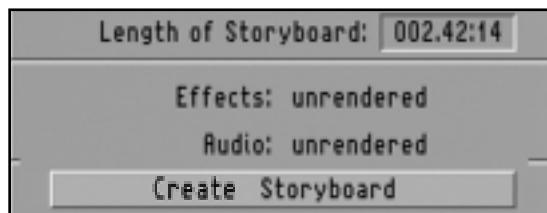
The In and Out points here adjust the scene that's being inserted, NOT the original scene. It's usually best to have the scene already trimmed before you insert it, so you can see the scene as you make changes to its In and Out points.

Notice that adjusting the In point will also adjust your Start point. After you have adjusted the In point, you'll probably want to check the Start point, and adjust it accordingly if necessary (adjusting the Out point has no effect on the Start point).

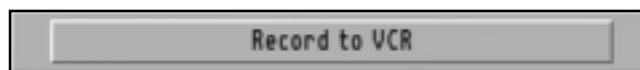
Putting your movie on tape

The Finish screen is where you go to record your movie onto a tape. But you don't necessarily have to be finished with your movie to work within this screen.

One powerful feature happens to be located within the Finish area: The Create Storyboard button. While this option can be used to "tidy up any loose ends" (effects you may have forgotten to render along the way) before you record your movie to tape, it also enables you to render all of your special effects and titles at once, rather than one at a time as you created them. Editors call this process a "batch render."



Once everything has been rendered, you can record your movie onto a tape. You press the Avio's Record to VCR button and press the record button on your videotape recorder (a VCR, camcorder, deck, etc.). As it plays, it is being recorded onto the tape.



This is essentially the reverse of the recording process that we covered in the Record screen. In this short chapter, we will cover the components of the Finish screen and how they can be used in detail.

Overview

The Finish screen is where you record your completed movie project out to a videotape.

Although the screen is fairly straightforward, it does have several components to it: The Length display, the Render status indicator, the Create storyboard option and the Record to VCR control.

Length display

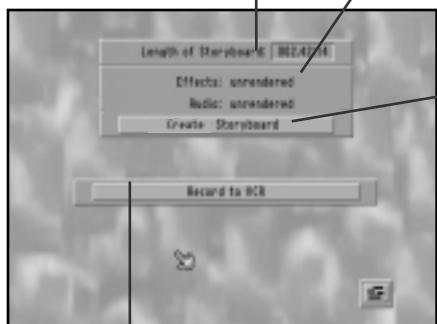


This displays the total length of your storyboard in minutes, seconds and frames (000.00:00).

Project status

Effects: unrendered
Audio: unrendered

This display tells you if you have any effects that need to be created (rendered) in order to finish your movie. All effects and audio must be created before you can record out to tape.



Create Storyboard

Create Storyboard

Some people choose to run a “batch render,” meaning that all audio and video changes are rendered at once instead of rendering each effect as they go along. To do this yourself, just click on the Create storyboard button and the Avio will render all unrendered material. Once it’s finished, you can record your movie out

Record to VCR

Record to VCR

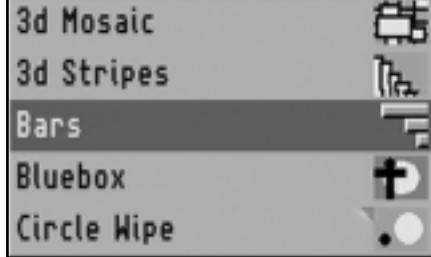
This button allows you to record your finished movie to tape. Before you begin to actually record your project to tape, you need to turn on your video recorder, then press Record to VCR. After this, the first frame of your video project will appear along with the message “Please switch VCR to record.” Press the Record button on your video recorder and then press the Avio’s on-screen Start button. It’s a good idea to start your video project with a few seconds of black video (an empty scene) in order to give you enough time to start recording on your VCR.

Tip: You could even end the video with a fade-out to a black scene—this allows you to avoid recording the Avio screen that appears once you have played through your entire project.

Smoothing out the bumps

Once you have most of your movie assembled and in place within the storyboard, you can press the Play button and get a rough idea of what it will look like once it's finished.

If you do this, though, you'll likely notice that the cuts (when one scene ends and the next one begins) are rough and abrupt. This is due to a lack of transitions - the "glue" that binds individual scenes together. Sometimes directors actually want to achieve this choppy effect (known as "jump cuts" or "hard cuts"). More often than not, however, you will probably want to feature a more seamless shift from one scene to another. This is where the Avio's Transitions screen comes in.



The transitions can be as flashy as a three-dimensional explosion, for example, or as subtle as a simple crossfade that dissolves one scene into the next; it's all up to you. This is one area where you can really let your creativity loose. Experiment with the different transitions until you find one that suits you. Have fun playing with the different variables within the transition you've chosen - drag a crossfade out over four seconds, then shorten it to one second. Notice how each one has a different impact on your scene as you watch it play in real-time.

This chapter will walk you through all of the options and controls that are within the Transitions screen, but we'll leave the creative experimentation up to you - making your movie should be fun.

Overview

Once your storyboard is organized, you can add transitions between scenes if you think your project needs them. (You could, of course, use simple cuts between scenes and avoid transitions altogether, depending on your individual editing style.) If you do decide to “smooth over” the jumps from one scene to another, the Avio has a full array of transitions for you to use, ranging from gentle crossfades to wipes. And, given the Avio’s real-time capabilities, the 2D transitions can simply be inserted and immediately played without having to wait for them to render (some of the more complex 3D effects will require rendering, however). Real-time effects are all labeled in the Effects list with a small green triangle.

A scene’s original source audio is automatically crossfaded whenever a transition has been added. This means that the sound from the first scene becomes quieter while the sound from the second scene becomes louder. You should remember to change the volume of a loud scene before placing the effect.

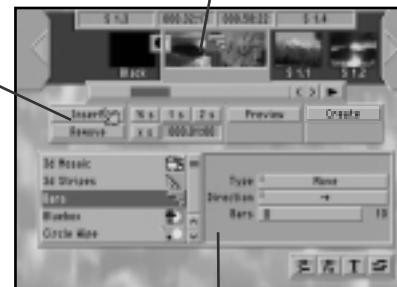
Workbox

This Workbox is virtually identical to the ones in other screens. You will note, however, that two scenes are contained in it, rather than just one. These are the two scenes that the transition, when inserted, will link.



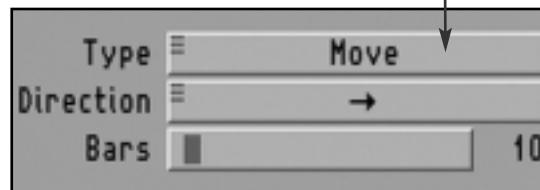
Insert & delete

These buttons insert and delete the transition effect between the two storyboard scenes in the gray Workbox.

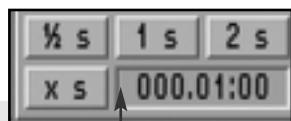


Modifiers

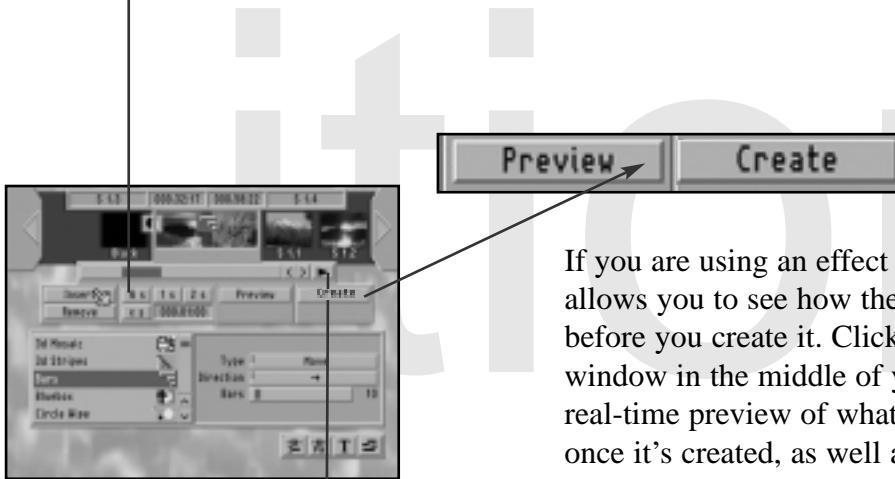
Here you can set the available modifiers for the selected Transition effect. These will vary, and some of the effects will not have any variables.



Transition duration



When you first insert a transition effect, its duration is automatically set at one second. You can change this by selecting one of these buttons, which will set the length at one-half of a second, one second, two seconds or the number of seconds you specify (this number cannot exceed the length of the shortest scene that the effect is being applied to). A transition can only be as long as the shorter of the two scenes it's applied to. A transition effect that is placed between two scenes will shorten the total length of the storyboard by the length of that transition. Transitions cannot overlap. In the case of a five-second scene next to an eight second scene, for example, the total length of the transitions attached to it cannot exceed five seconds.



Preview & Create

Preview Create

If you are using an effect that needs to be created, Preview allows you to see how the transition will look with your video before you create it. Clicking the Preview button produces a window in the middle of your screen. This window displays a real-time preview of what the finished transition will look like once it's created, as well as the two seconds of video before and after the transition. The preview itself will not take up any space on your hard drive.

The Create button will render and create the effect in the Workbox. These effects can be created here one at a time, or you can create them all at once (a “batch render”) in the Finish screen by pressing “Create storyboard.”

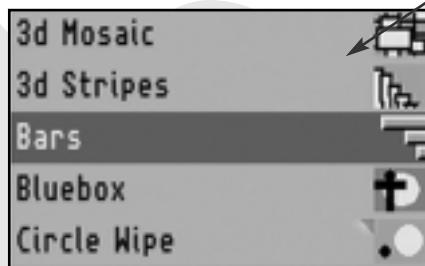


Play transition

This play button will play out the last three seconds of the first scene in the Workbox and the first three seconds of the second. If no transition is applied, you will see a straight cut between the two scenes. If a transition has been added (and created, if necessary), you will be able to view the transition and ensure that it is satisfactory.

Transition options

Here is a list of the available Transition options. Real-time effects have a small green triangle in the upper left corner of the icon. To select one, click on the box, and the blue highlight bar will appear; you can then select the slider and scroll up and down through the list to find the one you want to try.



3d Mosaic - The first scene breaks up into a number of squares that fly forward to reveal the second scene. The number of squares can be set from 1 - 15.

3d Stripes - The first scene is slowly covered as stripes containing the second scene fold in. The number of stripes can be set from 2 - 30 and the direction of the folding stripes can be set to Up or Down.

Bars - The first scene wipes away in the form of sliding bars to reveal the second scene. The first scene can either wipe away with the bars, or remain stationary and be covered by the incoming bars. There are six different directions for the bars' movement to choose from, and the number of bars can be set from 2 to 200.

Circle Wipe - The first scene is covered by the second in the form of a growing or shrinking circle. The motion of the movement can be set to In or Out.

Color Fade - The first scene fades to a color, and then fades into the second scene. The color can be set to any color, including Archived Colors.

Crossfade - The first scene dissolves into the second.

Double Exposure - Both scenes are double-exposed so both can be seen at the same time over the course of the transition. The mode can be set to Crossfade or In/Out Fade. Crossfade will begin with the first scene and end with the second scene, while In/Out Fade will fade to the double exposure, and then fade back to the first scene. When using the In/Out Fade mode, set the duration of the transition to be as long as the second scene for best results.

The fade time can be set from 0 – 10 seconds, and the mix percentage can be set from 0% - 100% (this affects how much of each scene will be seen - 50% means both scenes will be mixed evenly).

Field Changer - Over the course of this transition, the fields from the first scene are alternated with the fields from the second. The result is a lightning-fast strobing between the two scenes.

Gate- The first scene is covered as if a shutter is closing, and opens to reveal the second scene. The direction of the shutter can be set to up/down or left/right, and the color of the shutter can be set to any color, including Archived colors.

Page Clap - The second scene folds over the first. The foldover can be set to one of four directions.

Picture in Picture - The second scene will appear as a picture-in-picture inset over the first scene. The duration of the transition MUST be set to equal the length of the second scene for this effect to work properly. The position of the PIP inset can be set to anywhere on the screen. Also, the size of the inset can be set to any size. The second scene will be scaled to fit into the inset. A drop-shadow (the size of the shadow can be set from 0 – 50) and a border (the border's width can be set from 0 – 50) can both be placed around the inset.

Random Lines - The first scene is covered by the second in the form of thin horizontal lines.

Rectangle Wipe - The first scene is covered by the second in the form of a growing rectangle. As the rectangle grows, more and more of the scene is revealed. The movement of the rectangle can be set to Out or In, and the position that the rectangle begins at can be changed.

Scale - This is very similar to the Rectangle Wipe, but with one exception; the incoming (or outgoing) scene is scaled to fit into the growing (or shrinking) rectangle. The movement can be set to either Grow or Shrink, and the starting (or ending) position of the rectangle can be set to any position on the screen.

Stripe Fade - The first scene is covered by the second in the form of fading stripes. The number of stripes can be set from 2 to 32, and the stripes can be set to be either horizontal or vertical.

Special effects time

Have you always wanted to make one of your videos appear as if it were shot in black and white? Would you like to be able to superimpose video of your best friends in front of footage of the Great Wall of China, making it appear as if they took a trip to Asia? These special effects (and many more) are possible with the Avio.

If your creativity was piqued by the possibilities within the Transitions screen, then you'll have a ball with I.P. (Image Processing) effects screen. Whereas transitions provided the "glue" between scenes, I.P. effects can radically alter the look of the scenes themselves. You have fun with such options as washing out your color or superimposing people and objects from one scene into another with the Avio's Blue Box effect (available as standard in the ST model and as an upgrade in the LT model) - the choice is yours.

The I.P. effects screen allows you to place the effects on your scenes once they are assembled in your storyboard. You can also access most of these same effects with the Edit Screen's "Special" toolbar and apply them to your video scenes before they go into the storyboard, if you prefer to add multiple effects on top of one another.

As we did with the Transitions, this I.P. effects screen chapter will focus on all the elements that you can use to create special effects in your movies. Maybe you'll use five different effects in one movie, or perhaps you'll choose not to use any. The creative experimentation is up to you.

Overview

In this screen, you can apply filter-like effects to the scenes that are in your Storyboard. These image-processing (or “I.P.”) effects can be placed over the entire scene, a portion of the scene or the entire storyboard by using the Range button. If you want to apply effects to scenes in your scene bin, you need to use the Special button in the Edit screen (see Chapter 4 on the Edit screen for more information).

Preview

If you are using an effect that needs to be created, Preview allows you to see how the effect will look with your video before you create it. Clicking the Preview button produces a window in the middle of your screen with a preview of what the finished effect will look like once it’s created. The preview itself will not take up any space on your hard drive.

The Create button will create (render) the effect in the Workbox. These effects can be rendered here one at a time, or you can batch render them in the Finish screen by pressing “Create storyboard.”

Workbox

Whichever scene you place within the gray Workbox in center of the storyboard will be the one on which the image-processing effect is applied.

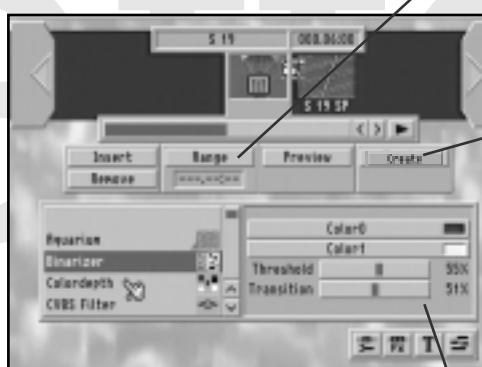
Insert & remove

These buttons insert and remove the effect on the scene in the gray Workbox.

Range

An I.P. effect will always alter the entire workbox scene unless you adjust the effect's range. To do this, press the Range button and you'll be able to set the effect's new In- and Out-points. (Remember: You can only place one effect on a scene at one time. To place more than one I.P. on a scene, use the Special function in the Edit screen.)

If you want the effect to be longer or shorter than the host scene, press the Range button and choose the first frame (In-point) and last frame (Out-point) for your effect.



Create effect

→ Create

The Create button will render the effect in the Workbox. These effects can be created here one at a time, or you can create them all at once (called a "batch render") in the Finish screen by pressing "Create storyboard." (See Chapter 5 on the Finish screen for more information.)

Modifiers

Here you set the modifiers for the effect you selected from the list. These parameters allow you to alter and "personalize" each effect. The individual parameters will vary from effect to effect.



Effects options

Here is a list of the available I.P. effects. Real-time effects have a small green triangle in the upper left corner of the icon. To select one, click on the box and the blue highlight bar will appear; then you can scroll up and down to move through the list.



Binarizer - This effect will make your video appear in any two colors that you choose from the Color Selection Box. Similar to a duotone photo.

Color Depth - This effect reduces the amount of color in the video image. Any flickering that might occur as a result of this effect can be corrected with the CVBS filter.

Color to gray - The original color scene is turned into a monochromatic black and white one. If you intend to have your entire movie appear in black and white, you can use the video settings to lower the saturation to zero before recording the material and avoid the long creation times associated with applying color to gray to your entire project.

Control Color - This effect is for Red/Green/Blue (RGB) correction.

Control Image - This effect allows you to change the brightness, contrast, gamma and color aspects of your images.

CVBS Filter - This effect can be used to reduce a flickering that can occasionally occur when you are using CVBS connections, as opposed to S-video (or Y/C) connections. The reason for this is that the CVBS signal combines brightness and color, which can lead to a loss of video bandwidth (especially with color).

Doubler - This effect doubles your image and overlaps the two in such a way that it appears as if your scene is being viewed with blurred vision.

Dynamic range - This effect reduces the brightness and the range of contrast for a scene. Try experimenting with different settings and check the preview window before rendering. The scale mode retains all of the picture's information.

Flip - This effect can flip your scene vertically, horizontally or a combination of the two.

Line Art - This effect turns the scene into a kind of moving line-art drawing (all edges will seem to have been drawn with a pencil). The contrast slider sets the darkness of the lines according to the contrast of the original scene.

Mirror - With this effect, a scene is mirrored horizontally, vertically or both.

Mosaic - This effect enlarges the pixels in a scene to mask details (such as a person's face or a license plate on a car).

Negative - Similar to an actual photographic negative. Although it is often used to merely alter the scene, you could also apply it in other areas. You could use the macro function of a video camera to record video of a negative. The Casablanca's negative effect could then be used to turn the negative back into a positive image to be used in a video project.

NOP - This effect has no impact on your editing whatsoever; it's a tool used by software developers to test the Avio's software.

Out of focus - This effect allows you make a portion of your video appear as if it is out of focus. You can set when the blurriness fades in and fades out.

Rectangle - A rectangle is rendered into the scene. You determine the rectangle's size, dimension, color and transparency.

Relief - The scene is turned into a 3D relief, ultimately resembling an image chiseled in stone. The light slider changes the direction of the light source.

Sharpen - You can use this effect to improve your overall picture sharpness if, for example, your archived material needs to be restored. The sharpness grade can be regulated in 8 steps.

Solarize - This effect alters the scene's colorization, as black and gray shades change to orange, yellow, green, cyan and blue. This process is often used in science to demonstrate different levels of brightness; the human eye can only recognize about 100 different levels of brightness, but it can discern over 100,000 color variations. Hard cuts can lead to flickering edges if you use CVBS, but the CVBS filter and Soften effects can correct this problem.

Spread - This effect spreads your image's pixels apart.

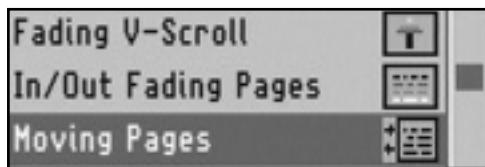
White balance - Sometimes cameras do not have the proper color balance. This color-correction option allows you to select a section of your video image to be adjusted to white, so that the Avio will then correctly balance other colors to match.

Zoom - This effect allows you to select a portion of your video that you can zoom in and zoom out on (great for zooming in on a player in sports videos).

Roll the credits

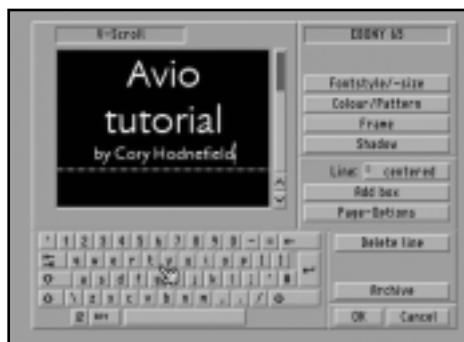
The Avio's Titling screen is where you can create titles, subtitles and credits for your movies. Whether you want to add a simple touch, such as having the words "Happy Sixth Birthday, Sara" appear before video of your daughter's birthday party, or proudly declare that your movie is "A Mark Smith Production," the Avio's titler will help you do it quickly and easily.

In fact, the Avio's titler works very much like the Transitions and I.P. effects screens that we covered in the previous two chapters. The titler even features the same Range, Preview, Create and Play functions that are used with transitions and I.P. effects. The biggest difference is that instead of adding a crossfade or a page-turn effect to one of your scenes, the Avio uses the same process to digitally mix text into your movie.



The titler is sharp, scrolls gently, features a wide range of fonts and can display text in any color. You can also choose just how your titles will appear on the screen (such as scrolling up from the bottom or fading in) or whether they have a background box behind them or not.

Once you select a title, you type the text in with the digital onscreen keyboard, which can be controlled with either the trackball or a USB PC keyboard (sold separately).



In this chapter, we examine all of the Titling screen's features and options, so you will be able to create great-looking titles for your movies.

Overview

The titler works very much like the Transitions and I.P. screens. Instead of adding a crossfade or a filter effect to one of your scenes, the Avio uses the same process to digitally mix text into your scene.

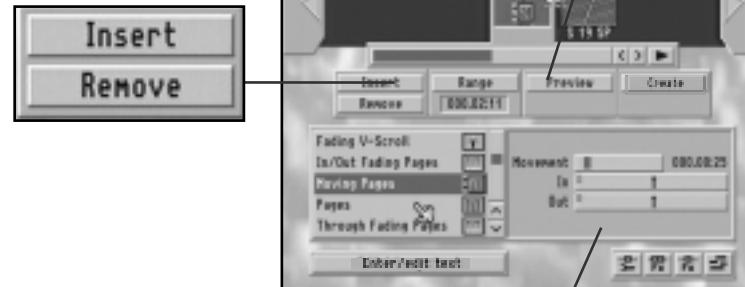
Range

Once inserted, a title will default to run for the entire length of the scene it is applied to. However, you can adjust the title's running time to let it run for a shorter or longer period. The Range screen is similar to the Trim screen. Instead of marking the active part of a scene, you set the effective time for the title. The text starts at whatever frame you set (In-point) and ends at the last frame (Out-point). Return to the titling menu once you have made your selections and your scene should now bear the titling icon. If your titles spill over into other scenes, they'll be marked with the icon as well.



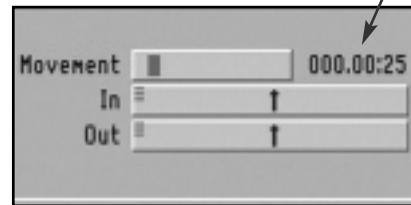
Insert / Remove

"Insert" will apply the selected Titling option to the scene in the workbox. (Note that this can be done before or after the title has been created in the Edit/change text screen). "Remove" will remove a Titling effect that has been applied to the scene in the workbox.



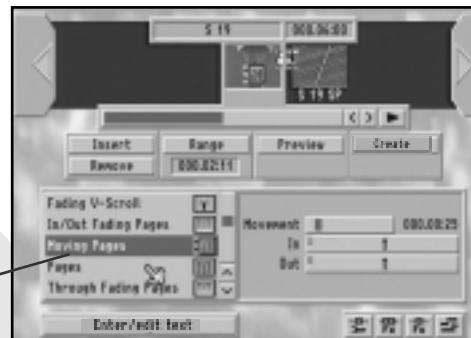
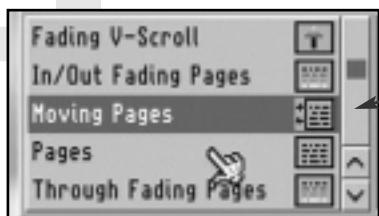
Option modifiers

Here is where you set the modifiers for the title selected from the list. These will vary by the titling option selected.



Titling options

This is a list of your available titling options. Each will have its own set of parameters to the right, once the option is selected.



Fading V-Scroll - Your text fades in and then fades out as it scrolls up. The “height” (the point at which the title begins to fade) can be set from 10 to 200.

Horizontal scroll - With this option, your text crawls across the screen horizontally, from right to left.

In/out fading pages - This titling option fades one page of text into another. You can set the length of the fade-in (a setting from 0 to 10) and the duration that each page remains on the screen (a setting from 0 to 10).

Moving pages - With this option, you can set the direction in which your body of text comes onto the screen and the direction in which it moves. The Movement setting is the amount of time that the setting takes your text to move across the screen.

Pages - This option allows you to create static text blocks (“pages”).

Through fading pages - This is quite similar to the Pages option, but here you can have the pages fade from one to the next (similar to a Crossfade transition).

V-Scroll - Your body of text will scroll vertically across your screen.

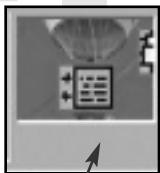
Preview

The Preview button plays the title in a real-time preview. The running time will be about as long as that of the final version. The preview requires no additional space on your hard drive.



Workbox

The title that you choose will be placed on the scene that's within the Workbox.



Create

When you click this button, the Avio will create the Titling effect that you applied to your video scene.



Play

Pressing Play will allow you to view the scene within the Workbox with the new title added to it once the title has been created.



Enter / edit text

Enter / edit text

When you click on this button, the Avio will bring up a digital keyboard. You use this virtual keyboard or an external USB keyboard, if you prefer, to type in the text for your titles.

On the next several pages, we describe the Enter /edit text screen and its functions in more detail.

Overview

In this screen you will enter the actual text that will appear in the selected Titling effect. You will notice that this window's interface is designed to be very similar to a word processing program.

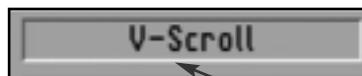
Font display

This box displays the style and point size of the font that you selected.



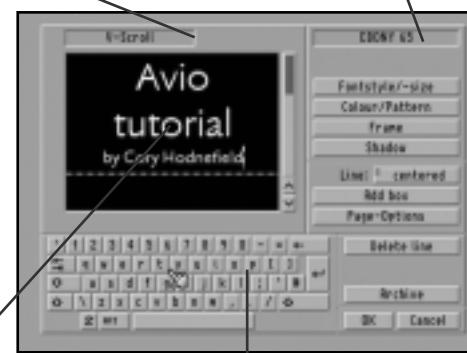
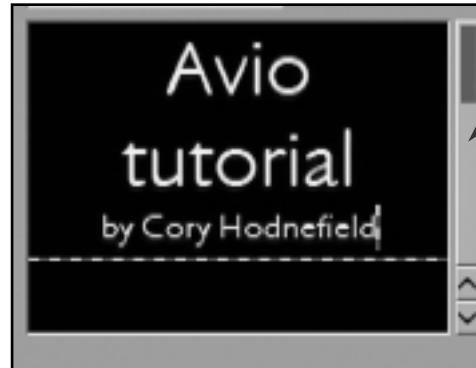
Title name

This box displays the name of the Titling effect that you selected in the main Titling area before entering the Edit / change text menu.



The scene that was in the workbox in the Titling screen will appear here and display any changes made with the keyboard or with the titling options. The slider and arrows on the right allow you to scroll up and down through the text if you have entered more text than can fit on the screen. (Note: The slider won't work with all fonts.).

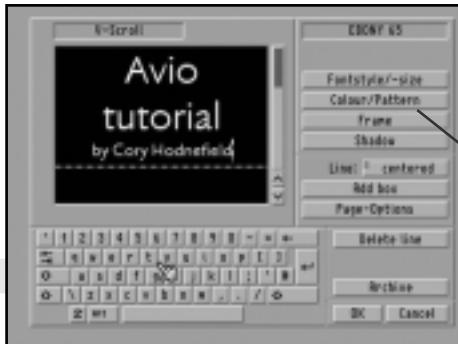
Work scene



Keyboard



The on-screen keyboard is very similar to a traditional word-processing program. Just place the cursor (the pointing hand) over the key that you want to press and click the left trackball button. (Note: The Avio uses line-oriented text, meaning that you can use any number of fonts, sizes and colors on different lines, but not within a single line).



Text controls

These four buttons allow you to adjust how your title's text appears on the screen.

You'll find a closer look at each control and how it affects your text below.

Font style / -size

Seven fonts are available with your standard system package and many additional fonts are available on separate font disks. You can scroll through the list of fonts using the trackball. A sample of the current font is displayed below the list. You can choose any font size that you want and the sample text will reflect your changes. In the case of some extremely large fonts, you might only see parts of the text, but the actual version will appear its entirety.

Fontstyle/-size

Color / pattern

Here you can select the color of the letters in the text or add a texture pattern to appear on the letter instead of a color. Once "Textured" is selected, you can then choose which texture you would like to appear over the letters of your text. The slider allows you to set the transparency of the color; 0% being completely transparent, 100% being entirely opaque.

Colour/Pattern

Frame

Clicking here will outline each individual letter with a color that you designate.

Frame

Here you can create a drop shadow for each of the letters in your text. There are two options; selectable color for the shadow, and an arrow that lets you select which side of the letter you would like the shadow to appear. The direction that the arrow is pointing tells you what direction the light that casts the "shadow" is coming from. If the arrow is pointing to the right, the shadow will appear on the right side of the letter.

Fontstyle/-size

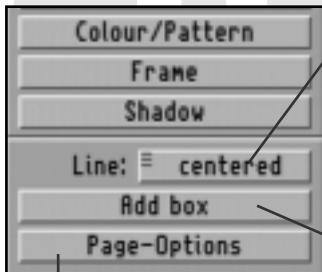
Colour/Pattern

Frame

Shadow

Shadow

Alignment



Line: **centered**

There are three ways to align your text: "Left," "Right" and "Centered." If you're typing text directly onto the scene, this alignment will be relative to the entire scene. If you're typing into a textured box, however, it will designate the text's alignment within the box, regardless of where that box appears in the scene.

Add box

Add box

This button allows you to place a variable-sized box on the screen that you can then type text onto. Click the button once to create the box. At that point, you can move the box around on screen with the trackball. Once you placed it where you want, left-click again to set the box in place. Now you can adjust the size of the box with the trackball. Click left again, and the box will be in place. (You can also use the Tab button to maneuver through boxes or even change the size of boxes to reach text boxes underneath.)

Page-Options

Page options

Clicking this button will bring up a sub-menu (containing Move box, Size box, Delete box, Box-background, Text, Insert page and "Delete page options) that allows you to customize the text box and insert or delete entire pages of text.

On the next page, we take a look at each of these options in more detail, starting with Move box.

Move box

Select a text box, click this button and roll your trackball to adjust where the title box appears on the scene (similar to using the Add box function). Clicking the left trackball button will set the position of the box.

Size box

Select a text box, click this button and roll your trackball to adjust the size of the title box on the scene (again, this is similar to using the Add box function). Clicking the left trackball button will set the size of the box.

Delete box

This will delete the currently selected text box.

Box-background

Here you can choose the background for the currently selected box. You will have four options for the background - Transparent, Unicolor, Textured and Alpha.

These next three buttons will only be enabled if you selected a titling option that contains multiple pages. You will want to type one page of information in at a time. Once you finish a page, use the page selection arrows to move on to the next page.

Text alignment

This button allows you to align your page of text.

Insert page

This button enables you to insert a new page of text. You'll notice that once the button is clicked, anything that you previously typed will not be visible as the new page is created. You can then toggle back and forth between the old page and the new page by using the Page arrows.

Delete page

This will delete the page that's currently selected in the workscreen.

The sound of music

One of the final touches that you can add to your movie will likely be one of the most important - editing the sound. Whether you want to add a voice-over narration or include one of your favorite songs from a CD, your soundtrack will help set the tone and mood of your movie.

But before you can add audio to your movie, you must first record it into your Avio with the Audio record/edit screen. This screen is where you record and manipulate all of your additional audio tracks, whether they include music, speech or sound effects.

Although the Audio record/edit screen's interface has a rather unique look, it functions very much like the video recording and editing tools you read about in previous chapters. The biggest difference is that once audio is recorded onto the Avio, those files are called "samples," not "scenes" as the video files are called.

The audio Split, Trim, Copy and Delete functions are also very similar to their video counterparts in the Edit screen. In fact, just as the Edit screen's "Special" menu allowed you to create special video effects, the Audio record/edit screen also enables you to add special sound effects to your audio material.

This chapter will help you familiarize yourself with the unique functions and buttons within the Audio record/edit screen, but it will be helpful if you recall the video recording and editing steps that we've already covered.

Overview

The Audio Record screen is where you record and manipulate your audio. The Split, Trim, Copy and Delete functions are very similar to their video counterparts in the Edit screen. Within the Audio Record screen's interface you can record, trim, split, copy, name and add effects to your audio material. The sound files resulting from a recording (whether they be music, voice-overs or sound effects) are called samples and are placed in the Sample List to the right.

Decibel control

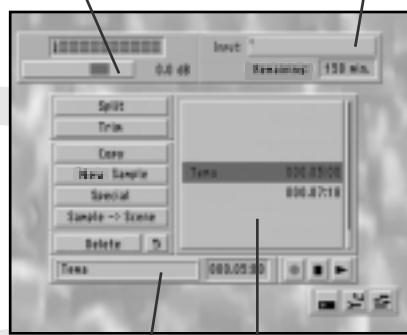
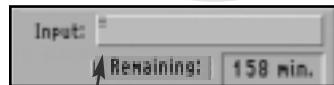
The Decibel Control slider allows you to lower and raise the volume of the incoming audio. The actual change in decibels is displayed to the right of the slider.

The volume meter above the slider helps you monitor your incoming audio signal's decibel levels.

When you record audio to the Avio's hard drive, you should ensure that the decibel meters only register in red (high) during the loudest portions of the audio sample. If the meters are consistently within the red area, you should lower the volume of your incoming audio. If you intend to work with several tracks at once when constructing your soundtrack, don't use high volume settings for all of the tracks. The volumes of all three tracks are summed up and this could lead to an over-modulation of the final sound. Each bar on the display represents about 5 dB.

Sample name/time

This box displays the name and duration of the clip you are editing, which is also the currently highlighted clip in the Sample List.

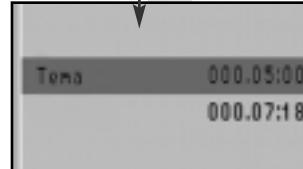


Input/free capacity

The Audio Input selector is where you indicate the type of audio input you are using: RCA, Scart & Like Video (Like Video means the Avio uses the same settings that you selected in the Video Settings screen.)

Free Capacity tells you the amount of available time remaining in the audio partition for the current project.

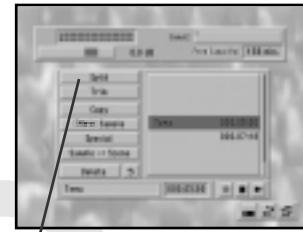
Sample list



This box displays the names and running times (minutes: seconds: frames) of your audio samples. If you want to select a sample, click anywhere within the box and scroll up and down with the trackball until the sample you want is highlighted, then click on the left trackball button to confirm it.

Split sample overview

The Split function allows you to split up your audio samples just as you would split up your video samples in the Edit screen. The Audio Split controls are similar to those found in the video Split window.



Sample name



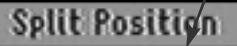
This box displays the name of the clip you are splitting.

Quick play



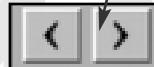
Play will play up to the first three seconds of the sample.

Split position

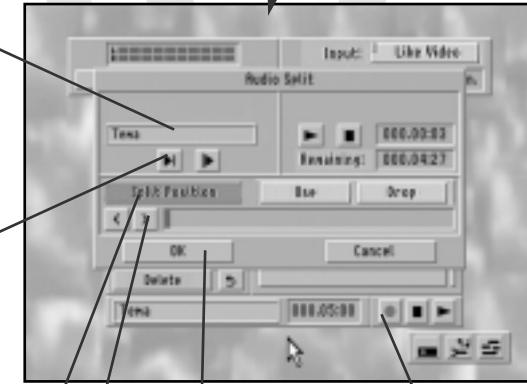


This button allows you to set the split points in your audio sample. Once you press the button, scroll right with your trackball.

Single frame



The Single frame (< and >) buttons move your selected split points backward and forward one frame at a time.



Record



Pressing this button will record your audio sample (song, voice-over, etc.) onto the Avio.

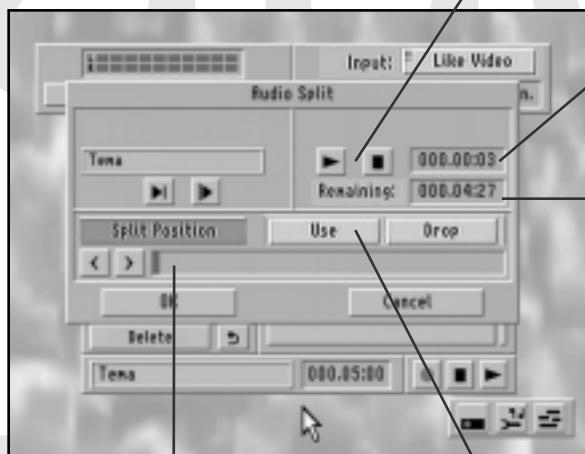
OK



OK returns you to the Audio Record screen after saving.

Play

Play will play the sample from the beginning up to the currently selected split point.



Time display

This displays the length of the portion of the scene up to the currently selected split point.

Remaining display



This indicates the length of the audio sample after the split point.



Use and drop

Use retains the audio segment that you just scrolled through, while Drop discards it.

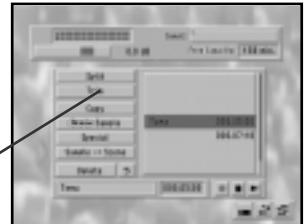
Split meter



This meter is a visual depiction of the audio you have scrolled through so far. The blue portion represents the selected portion in regard to the whole audio sample (which is represented by the remaining gray area of the bar).

Trim sample overview

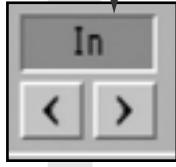
This button takes you into the Audio Trim screen, where you can alter the In and Out points of your audio samples. The Audio Trim controls function much like the Video Trim controls (see Chapter 4 for more information on video trimming).



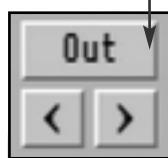
Play / stop & display



In point



Clicking the In button and scrolling the trackball allows you to change the point at which your sample begins playing. The arrows beneath the button move through the scene one frame at a time.



Out point

Clicking the Out button and scrolling the trackball allows you to change the point at which the audio sample stops playing. Once you stop scrolling to the left, you will hear the last few seconds of audio before the Out point until you click the left trackball button to confirm the position. The arrows beneath the button move through the scene one frame at a time.

Sample name

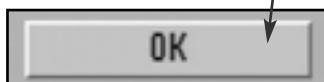


This box displays the name of the clip you are trimming.



OK

OK returns you to the Audio Record screen after saving.

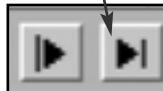


Trim meter



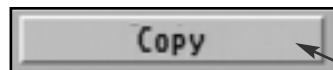
This meter is a visual representation of the audio sample according to the In and Out points. The blue portion represents the selected portion in regard to the whole audio sample (which is represented by the remaining gray area of the bar.)

Quick play

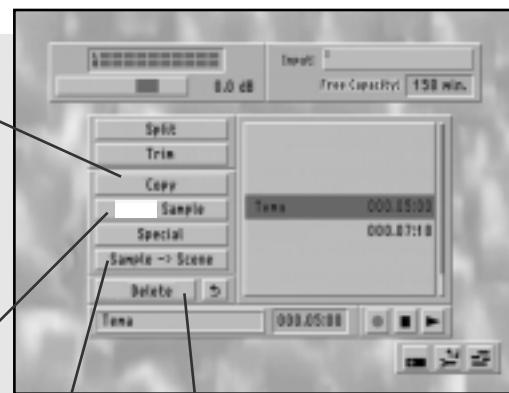


These buttons to the left of the In counter and to the right of the Out counter play the first and last three seconds of your audio sample, respectively.

Copy



Clicking the Copy button creates a duplicate version of the selected audio sample; it does not occupy any additional space on your hard drive.



New Sample



The New Sample function generates a silent audio sample that can be used to mask background noise or affect other samples in other audio tracks. You can select the length of the sample (up to one minute).

Another option is a sample that contains a continuous tone. You can select from 440 Hz or 1 kHz, and also designate the volume of the tone. Once you select the desired length, click OK and the Avio will generate the sample.



Delete

Delete removes the highlighted audio sample from your sample list.

The Undo button (the curved arrow to the right) allows you to restore the last ten audio samples that have been deleted.

Sample -> Scene



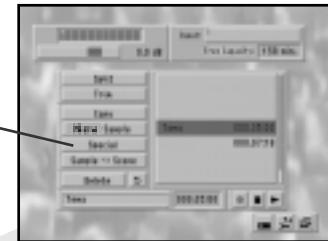
Sample -> Scene generates a new scene that consists of empty, black video accompanied by a selected audio sample in the original audio track. This new scene will be located within the Edit screen's scene bin and can be used to help you "edit to the beat."

If you place the empty scene in your storyboard, you can insert-edit video clips into the scene while retaining the audio track.

Special overview

Special

The Special button brings up a variety of effects that can be added to your audio samples (the original audio sample, however, always remains intact). The special effects are modular and will expand in the future. Note: Most effects involve stereo sound and cannot be applied if the audio quality has been set to "Mono." Here's a list of the effects and how they affect your audio.



Copy

Copy allows you to replace either the right or left channel with a duplicate of the other channel. Left->Right places the audio data from the left channel in both left and right channels.

Mono

Mono blends the audio data from the left and right channels and plays the combination over both channels.

Mute

Mute allows you to mute the audio data on either the left or the right channel.

NOP

This is not an effect - it is merely a device for the developers to test the Avio's software with.

Swap

Swap reverses the left and right channel data (the left becomes the right and the right becomes left).

Volume & Volume L / R

Volume raises or lowers the volume of the entire audio sample, while Volume L / R allows you to raise or lower the volumes of the left and right channels independently.

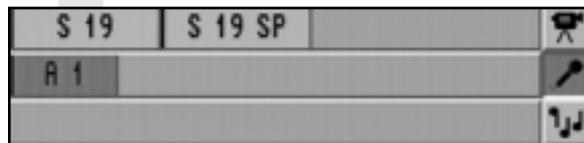
Width

Width allows you to simulate an increase or decrease in the distance between your speakers (a setting of zero is "mono").

Become a mix master

Once you've recorded your audio samples, you'll then need to integrate them with the movie you have built in your storyboard. This all happens in the Audio Mix screen, where you can arrange all of your recorded samples in whichever order you like. You can even regulate their volumes, causing them to fade in or out, or even mute portions of them entirely.

The Audio Mix screen is quite similar to the video Edit screen. To the left you'll find the recorded samples and at the top is the storyboard. Unlike the video storyboard, however, this storyboard features three horizontal bars representing the three audio tracks:



Original source audio (whatever was recorded by your video camera's microphone when you were taping), Commentary (where you can place a voice-over narration that you recorded on a mixer or tape deck) and Background (music) tracks.

In this chapter, we will discuss the ins and outs of the Audio Mix screen, paying particular attention to each button and slider bar and how they affect your audio. For a detailed tutorial on how to use more advanced audio editing techniques, see the appendix that follows this chapter.

Overview

This screen allows you to arrange your edited audio samples and regulate their volumes. While in the Audio Mix screen, the controls for moving around in the storyboard are quite similar to the video Edit screen. In this screen, the "active sample" is the audio sample that is currently highlighted in blue, either in the Storyboard soundtrack or down below in the sample list.

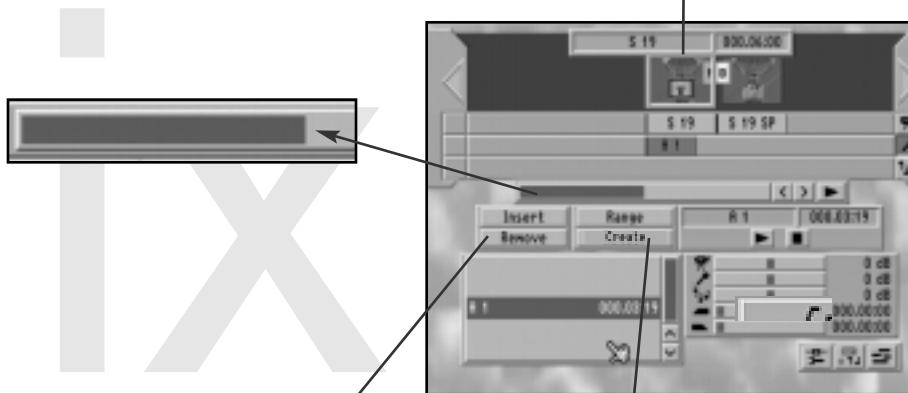
Workbox

In this screen, the gray Workbox's main purpose is to give you a starting point when adding audio samples. Any audio sample, once added, will be placed at the beginning of the scene that is in the workbox.

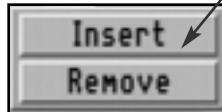


Storyboard slider

This allows you to move through the storyboard scenes in order to place whatever scene you want into the gray Workbox. This can also be done by placing the pointer over the scene and clicking left with the trackball.



Insert / Remove



Insert adds the active sample into the storyboard. Initially, audio samples are placed at the start of the scene in the gray Workbox. If a sample is already present at the beginning of the scene, the Avio will automatically insert your new audio at the end of the old sample. Audio samples can't overlap, so this will only work if you have enough space remaining in the storyboard after the first sample.

The Remove button removes the active sample from the commentary and background tracks (you can't remove your original source audio). Remember that if you remove audio samples you'll need to re-render the storyboard.

Create

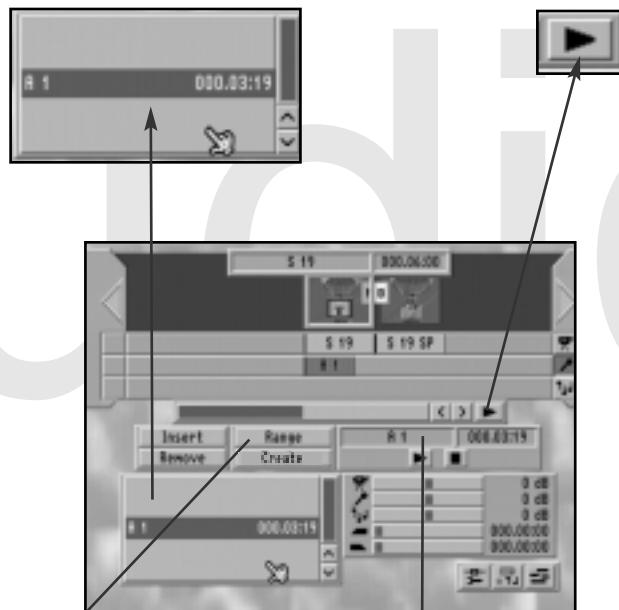


Avio can play all three tracks together only if they have been created (uncreated samples appear in red within a bar above the original track; created samples appear in green). Create a sample by clicking on it and pressing the Create button.

The Avio will then create the segment of the storyboard soundtrack covered by the active sample. The time needed for creating depends on the length of the sample.

Sample list

This is the same list of samples as in the Audio Record window. You will have to highlight an audio sample here to be able to add it to the storyboard soundtrack.



Range

Range

This function allows you to do two very separate things. First, the Start button allows you to select the point in the scene where the active audio sample will begin playing. Remember: it's automatically placed at the beginning. Click Start and begin scrolling right. You will notice you are scrolling through the scene. Once the desired starting point for the active audio sample is found, click left and the start point will be set. (To change it again, click Start again.)

Secondly, you can change the In & Out points of the Active sample. Simply make the changes as you would using the Trim function in the Edit window. Remember: Once the In point is trimmed, the active sample will still begin at the set Start point.

Play

This will play the active sample from the storyboard soundtrack. If the segment has been created, you will hear all three tracks. If the segment has not been created, you will only hear the active sample.

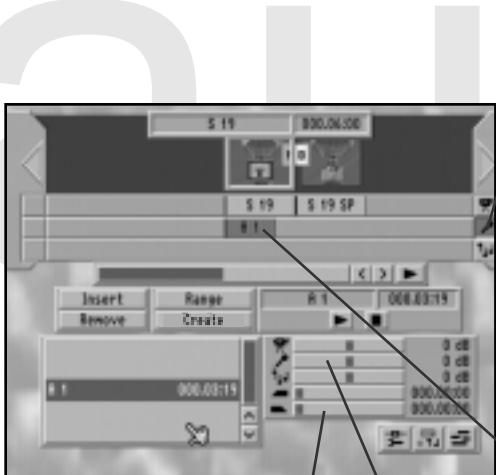
Active sample display / play button



This displays the active audio sample. Note that this functions in two different ways. The active sample can be either in the Sample list to the left, or in the storyboard above.

The Play button beneath the display will play the original version of the sample. If you would like to hear the sample as it appears in the Storyboard, use the play button above.

Track icons

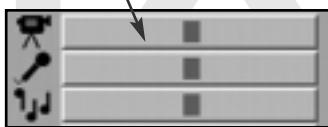


These icons help you identify what you are using the available tracks for. The Camera Icon is the Original Source Audio track; this is the audio that comes with your original video footage. This audio can be muted, but not removed. The Microphone represents the Commentary track, and the Musical notes represent the Background music track. Note how these icons correspond to the same icon next to the volume sliders down below. Please see the Audio Slider explanation below to see how these volume sliders allow you to make minute audio volume adjustments.

Audio sample



This is how an audio sample appears once it has been added to one of the audio tracks.



Volume controls / mute

These are the sliders that allow you to adjust volume levels. Moving the slider to the far left mutes the sample.

Fade in / out



The top slider lets you set a Fade in for the active audio sample, while the bottom slider lets you set a Fade out. Set the slider for the desired length of the fade.

Volume adjustment tips

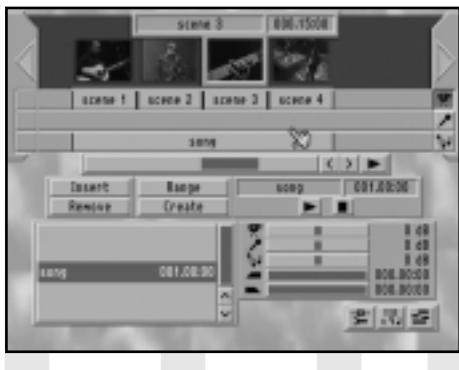
Don't adjust any of the volume sliders until you have highlighted a sample in the audio timeline to make it the Active sample (if no sample is highlighted, adjusting the sliders will not affect any of your samples).

Once you've highlighted an audio sample, then you can start adjusting the sliders to manipulate audio for the sample you have highlighted, or to have it affect the volumes of the other two tracks if desired. If you change one or both of the other tracks, the effect it has on those tracks will last for the duration of the highlighted sample.

More audio mixing tips

Here are some examples of how you can adjust sample volumes on a variety of tracks. For the purposes of this example, the four scenes are 15 seconds long, and the audio sample (“Song”) is 60 seconds long.

1. If you highlight the audio sample that we’ll call “Song” and then drop the Original Source Audio (the Camera icon) slider to MUTE, all four of the Source Audio tracks would then be muted. Remember that you affect the other audio tracks for the duration of the highlighted sample. In this case, this is faster than highlighting each of the audio samples on the Source Audio track and muting them individually.



If you want to change the volume of the entire sample (“Song”), highlight it and make the desired adjustment to the Background track (the Music note icon). When an audio sample affects itself, the adjustment will affect the entire audio sample.

2. Highlight the audio sample called “Scene 3” and then adjust the Background music slider to –15dB; you are affecting the “Song” sample from the sample “Scene 3.” The sample “Song” will play at normal volume until it reaches the point where it is being affected by the sample “Scene 3.” The volume of “Song” will then drop –15dB until Scene 3 has played through and its affect on “Song” ends. The volume of the sample “Song” will then return to normal.

Affecting other tracks in this way will always produce a rather abrupt change in volume. To get a smooth fading volume change in the above scenario (once “Scene 3” is highlighted and you’ve affected the slider for the Background music track), set the Fade In and Fade Out at one second each. This will then gradually change the audio volume level in the sample “Song.” (It will also cause the audio in the sample “Scene 3” to fade in and out as well.)

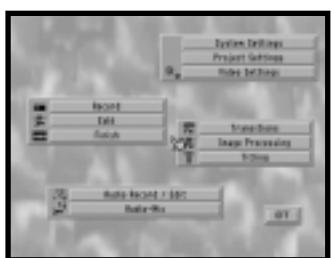
Remember that these changes are cumulative. Say you have a scenario where you have audio on all three tracks at the same point in time. Highlight the sample on the Commentary (the Microphone icon), and take the Camera slider to –5db. Highlight the sample on the Background music track and again take the Original audio slider to –5db. This will then have a total reduction of –10db on the Original Source (Camera) track.



The following movie-making tutorial will get you “up and running” in no time as it takes you through some basic editing steps that cover the fundamentals of editing with the Avio. For a more detailed explanation of what a particular function or button does, please refer to Chapters 1 through 10.



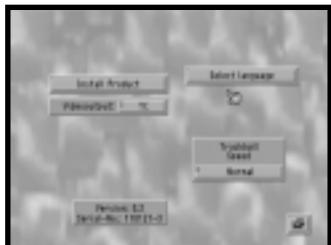
Turn the Avio on by pressing the power button on the front panel, in the upper left-hand corner.



First you will see the Casablanca Avio logo for a moment, followed by the Avio main menu screen. From the Main Menu, you can get to any of the Avio’s work screens by placing the cursor over the desired location and clicking left on the trackball.

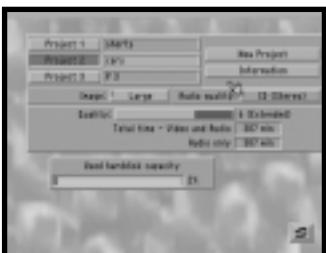
1. Getting your Avio ready to edit

Before you begin working with your Avio, there are a few settings that you’ll want to adjust whenever you begin a new project. Once the project has begun, you won’t think about them very often, if at all.



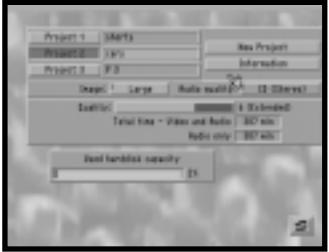
Go to the System Settings screen (to select a button on the Avio, place the pointer over the button, and click the left trackball button). Set the following:

- Language - Your Avio will be pre-set to English
- Output - This should reflect how you have your Avio cabled to the TV (remember: YC = SVHS and CVBS = RCA cables)
- Trackball speed - Select any speed with which you are comfortable



Once these are set, return (right click on the trackball) to the Main screen.

Now go into the Project Settings screen, where you’ll set the parameters for each project (notice that you have the option of editing up to three projects at the same time; for this tutorial, you’ll only use one).



Select and set the following:

- Video Quality - Set to 6, which is the highest quality. Notice that as you lower the quality, more space becomes available on your Avio's hard drive.
- Audio Quality - Set to "HiFi Stereo."
- Image size - Set to "Medium."

Once these have been set, you can return to the Main Screen. Your Avio is now set up and ready to edit!

2. Loading in video

Now you can load some video into your Avio. First, you need to prepare the tape that's in the VCR or camera by rewinding it to the beginning. For the purpose of this tutorial, please use video that contains at least three different scenes.



Go to the Video Settings screen and select the proper input, which is either "Y/C" for SVHS, "CVBS" for RCA cables from a player (a VCR, camcorder) or "Scart."

Press "Play" on the player and look at the incoming video. Click on the Brightness, Contrast and Saturation sliders and notice how they affect the incoming video. Return them to their original positions (or however you would like them to be set; just remember that this is how the video will look once it is loaded into your Avio).



Go into the Record screen. You can do this quickly by clicking on the small Record screen icon in the lower right hand corner.



Once in the Record screen, you'll see that your video is still visible. Click the Record button. You are now loading the video you see on screen into the Avio. Let it run until you have a few minutes of video loaded. To stop recording the incoming video, just click the Avio's "Stop" button.

Recording tips:

- Always start the player before clicking Record on the Avio.
- While recording, always click Stop on the Avio before pressing Stop or Pause on the player. If you do not follow these two guidelines, the incoming video may not be usable.

The video that you just watched is now loaded into your Avio. Click “Stop” on the player, and turn the player off with its power button.



Notice that the displays show that the video you just loaded in is named “S1.” To change the name, click on it and type in the new name using the on screen keyboard (if you have purchased an external keyboard, you can use it as well). Click on “OK” and the scene will be renamed.

The length of “S1” in minutes/seconds/frames is displayed just to the right of the Scene Name display. Your Avio does not display hours, only total minutes, so it’s a good idea to always keep in mind the relationship between time and video:

- 1 hour = 60 minutes
- 1 minute = 60 seconds
- 1 second = 30 frames of video

The display to the right (labeled “Rest”) tells you how much recording space is still available in your Avio.

If you decide you do not want to save scene S1, click “Delete,” and S1 will be deleted from your Avio. To record more video, start the player again, and click Record.



3. Editing with your Avio

Now that you have some video loaded, you’re ready to begin editing. Go into the Edit screen, where you will see your video (scene S1) in the Scene Bin.



The Scene Name display at the bottom of the Scene Bin will display the name of the highlighted scene (which, in this case, is S.1). The Play button to the right of the Scene Name display will play the displayed scene.



Now that we've seen our video, let's split it up into smaller scenes. Highlight S1 (it should already be highlighted in blue, as it's the only scene loaded) and click "Split."

Once you're in the Split menu, click "Split Position." Most of the menu will disappear from your screen, and you will see a small command bar. Scroll right, and you will see that you are scrolling through the video clip (the time display to the right will tell you how far you have scrolled into the scene). Scroll until you find a good spot for the new scene to end, and click the left trackball button; this will return you to the main split window.



Now, click the Play button, and you'll see the portion of the scene that you just selected, ending at the point where you set the Split Position. If you are unhappy with the Split point, click Split Position again and reset it.

Once you're happy with the Split point, decide if you want to use the scene in your movie. If you do, click "Use;" if you don't, click "Drop." When you are splitting, you are making copies of the portions you are selecting, so the original clip S1 will be complete, and still available in the Scene Bin.

Once you click "Use," you are ready to begin splitting the rest of the clip. Click Split position and repeat until you have split S1 into at least four new scenes.



Return to the main Edit screen, where you should now see the original S1 plus a number of other scenes labeled S1.1, S1.2, etc. These are the scenes that you will build your movie's storyboard with. If you needed to split the scene S1.2 into even smaller scenes, you can.

Next, let's trim a scene. Trimming is a quick and useful way to adjust your scene's length. Let's say, for example, that you are unhappy with the first two seconds of scene

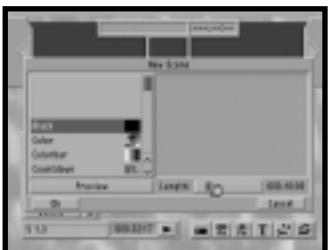


tutorial

S1.3. (You could always re-split it, but it's far easier to just trim those two seconds away.)

To trim a scene, you need to highlight it (in this case it will be S1.3) and then click the "Trim" button. This will bring up the main Trim window. The In and Out buttons determine the points that the video in scene S1.3 will start and stop playing. Click "In," and scroll to the right until you find a point that you would like the scene to start playing at. Once you have found it, click the left trackball button to set the point for the video to start playing. If you are unhappy with your decision, click "In" and reset the In point (you can set the Out point in the same way).

To see if you're happy with your selection, you can either press "Play" to play the entire clip, or the Quick play arrows next to the In & Out points to play the first and last three seconds of the scene. Once you're satisfied with the results, return to the main Edit screen. (If you want to practice, go ahead and trim your other scenes).



Now you're ready to build your storyboard. You will probably want to start and end the storyboard with an empty black scene. To do this, click on the "New Scene" button. You'll be presented with a number of options, but choose "Black." Set the length to 10 seconds and click "OK." Return to the main Edit screen.



You'll now see a scene named "Black" in the Edit scene bin. Highlight it and click "Add" to place it in your storyboard. Now highlight S1.3 and click "Add." You then will be asked where you would like the scene to be placed - either in front of, or behind, the scene that's in the storyboard's Workbox. (You're only asked this when the scene in the Workbox is the first scene in the storyboard. Otherwise, the scene being added will go behind the scene in the Workbox.) Select "Behind" and add the rest of your scenes in any order you'd like.



If you're unhappy with your placement of a scene, just move the storyboard slider until it's positioned within the Workbox and click "Remove." The scene will be removed from the storyboard, but it will still be available in the

Scene Bin. Now go ahead and place it wherever you want.

Notice that once a scene's been added from the scene bin to the storyboard, the scene bin version will have a small dot in the upper right hand corner indicating that it's in your movie's storyboard. That way, you can tell at a glance what's been used and what hasn't.

Storyboard tip: If you are using a scene in the storyboard, you do not want to change the trim points of the original scene below in the Edit scene bin. Either remove the scene from the Storyboard first, or highlight the scene in the Edit Scene bin and click Copy. This will make a duplicate of the scene. (Making a copy does not use up extra space on the Avio.)

Now your Storyboard is assembled. If you click the Play button up near the storyboard, it will play from the beginning of the scene in the Workbox through the last scene you added.



If you're unhappy with a scene in the Scene Bin, highlight it and click Delete. The scene will be removed from your Avio. Should you change your mind, click the curved arrow just to the right of Delete, and the scene will re-appear in the Scene Bin.

Clicking Search will highlight the corresponding original version of the scene that is currently in the gray Workbox, down below in the Scene Bin.

Replace will take the highlighted scene in the Scene bin and replace it with the scene that's currently in the gray Workbox.

4. Adding Transitions, Image Processing Effects, and Titles

Right now, you could play your storyboard and get a rough idea of what your movie would look like, but there will be a “hard cut” whenever one scene ends and another

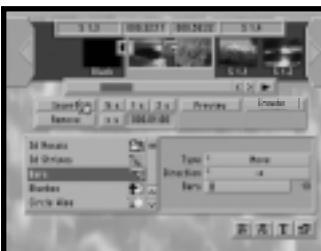
begins. Some directors like to use hard cuts to achieve a certain rough look to their projects, but more often than not, you'll want a smoother blend between scenes. To do that, you can add transitions between the scenes to make the storyboard flow more smoothly.



First, go into the Transitions screen. Notice that the Workbox now contains two scenes (the transition will be added between them). Get the first scene in your storyboard into the left side of the gray Workbox.

Use the slider to scroll through the list of Transition options in the lower left side of your screen (transitions that have a green arrow in the Transition list require no rendering) until you get to the one called "Crossfade." Click the Insert button and the transition will be applied between the two scenes. Click "Play" and you will see how the Crossfade transition looks between your two scenes (if you're not satisfied with it, click "Remove" and the transition will disappear from the storyboard).

The first time a transition is added, its default length is set at one second (after that, the range defaults to the previous setting). If you want it to be longer or shorter, you have four different length buttons just to the right of "Add" and "Remove." They are "1/2 s," "1s," "2s" and "Xs" (which will let you set a variable length for the transition, although the transition can only be as long as the shorter of the two scenes). You'll notice that the transition icon in the Workbox is green, which means that you won't have to wait for it to be created.



Now go to another part of the storyboard and insert the "Bars" transition between two different scenes. "Bars" is a 3-D effect that will need to be created, as indicated by the red border on the transition icon in the gray Workbox. To see the Bars transition before you render it, however, click on the Preview button. To actually render the effect so it can be seen when played from the storyboard, just click on "Create."

You can have a lot of fun experimenting with the rest of the transitions in the list. Each one will have different

options that you will want to eventually become familiar with the more you edit.

Transition tip: If you want to place both an I.P. effect and a transition on a scene, you will need to add the I.P. effect *first*, then you may add the transitions and press “Create.”

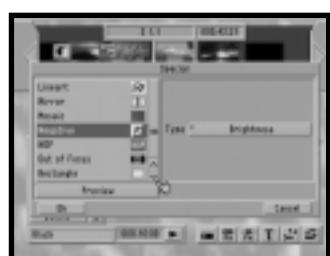
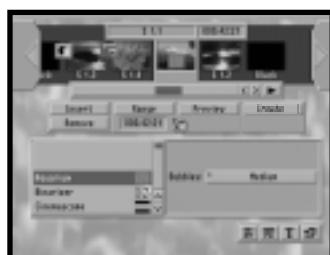
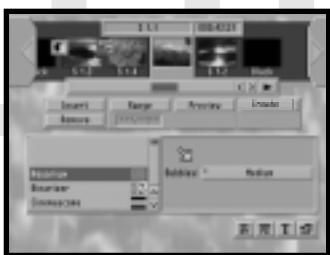
I.P. effects

Sometimes you’ll want to add a special effect, or “filter,” to an entire scene. To do this, you need to go into the I.P. effects screen (it looks similar to the Transitions screen, except that the Workbox only contains one scene, not two).

Position any transitionless scene within the Workbox, then scroll through the list of effects to find “Negative.” Click the Insert button and the effect will be applied to the Workbox scene (remember that “Remove” will delete the effect from the scene in the Workbox).

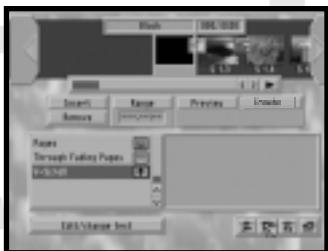
All I.P. effects need to be created, so you’ll need to click “Preview” to see what the effect will look like and “Create” to actually make the effect. You should note that an I.P. effect will be placed over the entire Workbox scene, so in order to place it over just a portion of the scene, click on “Range.” The Range menu’s In and Out points will let you change where the effect begins and ends within the scene. In this screen, all of the I.P. effects are applied to the scenes that are in the storyboard.

I.P. tip: To apply these same effects to a scene that’s in the Scene Bin, go into the Edit screen, highlight the scene in the Scene Bin you’d like to apply an effect to, then click “Special.” Select the desired I.P. effect, and click “OK.” A new scene will be generated that will contain the video + the I.P. effect. This scene will be separate from the original. The benefit from this is that the newly generated scene can now be moved freely around the storyboard without having to re-create the effect every time the scene is moved.

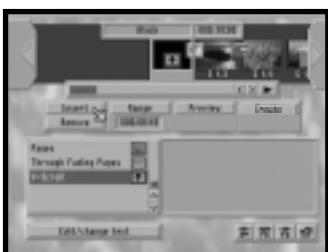


As was the case with the transitions, you'll probably want to eventually experiment with the rest of the effects in the list and become familiar with their different features.

Titling



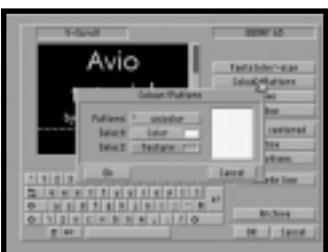
Now let's add an opening title sequence to your storyboard. Go into the Titling screen and position the empty black scene at the beginning of your storyboard into the Workbox (the Insert, Remove, Range, Preview and Render buttons work exactly the same in this screen as the ones in the I.P. effects screen).



Scroll through the list of title effects to find the one called "V-scroll." Click the Insert button to add the title to the scene in the Workbox, then click "Enter /Edit Text," which will take you into the Titling screen's interface (this interface works much like most word processing programs).



Use the on-screen or external keyboard to type in a name for your movie (you may want to type a couple of practice lines of text first just to help familiarize yourself with the interface), then click Fontstyle/-size. Select a font that you want to use and a point size for the letters. Notice that when you use the slider to change the size, the letters in the display change size. This is exactly how they will appear once added to the scene. Once you are satisfied with your choices, click "OK."



To select a color for your title, click "Color/Pattern" and you'll be presented with two choices: "Unicolor" or "Pattern." Select Unicolor and then click the Color button.



In the Color Selection window, click on the spectrum bar at the top to select the general color, then click on the large square box to change the darkness and chroma saturation of the selected color. The alpha slider lets you set the color's transparency, with 0% being completely transparent and 100% being completely opaque.



Once these are set, click “OK” twice (both here and once again on the Color/pattern box) in order to return to the Titling interface screen.



Now click “Outline” to place an outline on your letters. First click on “Enabled,” then select a color in the same manner as described on the previous page. Click “OK.”



To select a drop shadow for your letters, click the Shadow button, then click “Type” and select “Strong.” Next, click the arrow to select a direction for the shadow to appear; you may then select the color.

Finally, you can click “Line” to set the alignment of the text (set it to “Left,” “Centered,” or “Right” as desired).

Once all of these parameters are set, click on “OK” to return to the main Titling screen (at this point, you may preview the title to see how it will look in your movie).



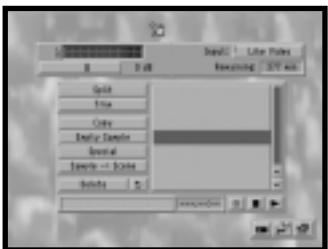
Now click the Range button and then click the Out point, scrolling back (left) for a total of two seconds on the on-screen counter. This will keep your title from interfering with the transition that we have already placed at the end of this scene. Once you are satisfied with your results, you may click “Create” to the scene with the title on it.

Titling tip: If you want to place both a title and a transition on the same scene, you’ll need to add the title first. Once that’s done, you may add the transition and click “Create.”

5. Loading audio into your Avio.

Now we will record a song into the Avio that will be used as the soundtrack for your movie in the storyboard.

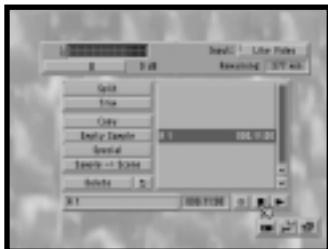
First, pick out a piece of music that you’d like to feature in your movie (it will be easiest to have the music come from a CD) and then hook up a CD player (or some other music source, if you do not have a CD player that you can



place next to the Avio) into the RCA inputs on the back of the Avio (as described in Chapter 1) and go into the Audio Record screen. Once there, the steps for loading audio are nearly identical to loading in video; the biggest difference is that the buttons are in different locations. “Record,” “Stop” and “Play” all function the same as the ones in the main Record screen.



Click “Input” and make sure it is set to “Like Video.” Press “Play” on the CD player and check the dB meters on the incoming sound. Generally speaking, you’ll want to make sure that the meters peak into the red area only during the loudest portions of the incoming audio. The dB slider below the meters will allow you to adjust the incoming volume (the 0dB refers to 0dB of change).



Once these levels are set, click the Record button to begin loading the audio into the Avio. The new audio sample will be named “A1” (its name can be changed by clicking on the name itself and typing in a new one, just as we did with our video.) Load in a few minutes worth of music, if possible, then click “Stop” to stop loading. Once you have stopped, A1 will appear in the Audio Sample list, along with all other audio samples that you will load into your Avio.

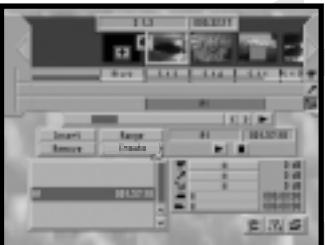
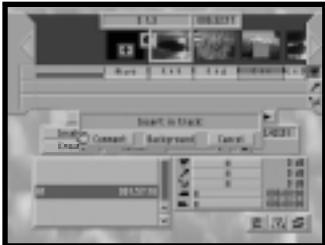
The Split, Trim, Copy and Delete buttons all allow you to edit the audio sample just as they did with video scenes in the Edit screen. Use them to edit your sample A1 if necessary.

You’re now ready to add this sample of music to your Storyboard, so go into the Audio Mix screen.



Make sure that A1 is highlighted in the Audio Sample List, then position your second scene into the Workbox and click “Insert.” You’ll be asked which track you would like A1 to go on: “Commentary” (the track labeled with a microphone) or “Background” (the track labeled with music notes.) Select “Background” for this tutorial.

Now you’ll see A1 under the storyboard in the



Background track (it will be highlighted in blue, designating it as the active sample). To adjust the sample's volume, move the corresponding dB slider down below while the sample is active.

The Avio will always add your samples at the beginning of the Workbox scene. If you want to move the point at which the audio begins, however, click on the Range button, then click the Start button and scroll the trackball either right or left (depending upon when you want the audio to start). Click "Create," then press the Play button that's directly beneath the storyboard. The movie will begin playing from the scene that's in the Workbox.

6. Recording your movie out to tape

Once you've finished editing, then you're ready to take your movie out of the Avio and put it back onto tape!

First, check that your cables are in the proper ports in order to record the movie out of the Avio to tape (as described in the Getting Started chapter), then go into the Finish screen. If you have effects that need to be created, you can run a "batch render" (creating all of the effects at once) here by clicking the Create Storyboard button.



Once this is completed, power up your VCR. Next, click the "Record to VCR" button on the Avio screen and you will be prompted to "Please switch VCR to record." Click "OK", and then press your VCR's Record button immediately, because your storyboard will begin playing your movie (this is why we suggest putting at least a 10-second empty black scene at the beginning of every movie).

Once the storyboard has played through, press stop on the VCR, and you now have a videotape of your movie to show to your friends, family or clients.



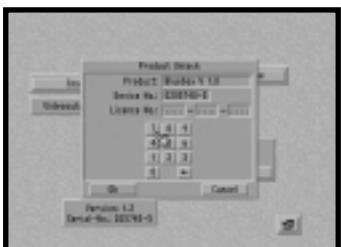
The Blue Box effect (also known as the "Chroma Key" effect) replaces an area of solid color in a scene with video footage of your choice. One common, everyday example of the Blue Box effect can be seen when TV newscasts show weather forecasters standing in front of changing weather maps. In reality, the person is standing in front of a blue or green screen, and the weather maps are superimposed behind them. This is precisely what your Blue Box transition will do, once you enable and apply the effect.

1. Enabling the Blue Box effect

Although the Casablanca Avio ST comes with the Blue Box pre-loaded into its system software, you have to enable the effect before you can use it. First, locate your Casablanca Avio's SmartMedia card. On the card's plastic outer sleeve, you'll notice three sets of numbers. The bottom line should read "Blue Box" with a 12-digit number next to it – that number is the code that enables your Blue Box transition. (Once you locate the number, it's a good idea to write it down in case you happen to lose the plastic sleeve. Writing it in this Casablanca Avio Owner Manual on page A.15 is ideal.)



When you are ready to enable Blue Box, turn on your Casablanca Avio. Go into the System Settings screen, click on the "Install Product" button and the Install Product menu will appear. Within this menu, you will be able to select from two different options: "Blue Box V1.0" or "Bonuseffects V1.0." For the sake of this tutorial, highlight "Blue Box V1.0" (the gray bar will run across it) and click on "License." (Note: You will receive the unlocking code for the other option, "Bonuseffects," once you have registered your Casablanca Avio with Draco Systems.)



A "Product Unlock" menu will then appear on your screen. Use the on-screen keypad to type in the 12-digit code number and click on "OK." The word "Active" will appear next to the Blue Box V1.0 line, indicating that you have access to this transition in the Transitions screen.



2. A Blue Box Project

Before you begin, take some footage of a person, animal or object in front of a blue or green background and load it into the Avio. It could be any object or title on any colored background – how you decide to use it is up to you. For this tutorial, however, we used a shot of a dog named Mesa sitting in a chair with green fabric. Once loaded into the Avio, the scene was renamed “Mesa.” A second scene of background footage should then be loaded into the Avio (for this tutorial, we created a second scene named “S2” that contains footage of the mountains).

Next, add the clip that you want to use as a background (S2) to the storyboard, followed by the clip of Mesa in front of the green background. Both clips should be the same length.



Place the Blue Box effect between the two clips, and set the length of the transition to match the scene length (if each scene is 25 seconds long, for example, the Blue Box transition duration will need to be set to 25 seconds).

Once you place the Blue Box effect, you can adjust four different settings: “Color Choice,” “Color Span,” “Include Area” and “Exclude Area.”

Click on “Color Choice” and use the box to select a portion of the blue background that you would like to “key out” (replace with the background video). Note: It’s important that the Color Choice box only contains the color you wish to key out.



Next, click on “Include Area,” and make sure that the box encompasses the entire image. Click on “Exclude Area” and make sure that the box is as small as possible (preferably in the corner of the image).

The most technical aspect of using the Blue Box effect is setting the Color Span slider. By adjusting this setting, you are determining the tolerance for the color that is being keyed out (which, in this example, is green). If the



percentage is too low, you will see green shadows and edges around the dog's body. If the percentage is too high, parts of the dog will become transparent too. There is no ideal number to set this at, though it's best to start testing the range around 85%. There really is no ideal or recommended setting for this option; you'll need to experiment with it on your own in order to become familiar with its range.

Once these adjustments have been set, click "OK," then click on "Preview" to see what your effect will look like. If you're not quite happy with the effect, you can always go back and change some of the settings. Assuming that your background is evenly lit, and the person in the foreground isn't wearing any blue, making fine-tuned adjustments to the Color Span should bring about excellent-looking results.

If you are happy with the results, though, go ahead and click "Create" to render the effect. Congratulations - you've just created your first Casablanca Avio Blue Box effect!

My Blue Box/Bonus effects codes are:

Avio Keyboard Shortcuts

There are a number of ways in which you can use your Casablanca Avio keyboard to save time and physical energy during editing. These keyboard shortcuts can save you from unnecessary operations and endless scrolling during extremely long scenes

1. Fast Scrolling

One keyboard shortcut is called “fast scrolling.” This technique can really come in handy when you would need to scroll through long scenes with the trackball in order to set Trim points, Split points and Ranges.

First, plug your keyboard into your Casablanca Avio and power up the machine. Locate the four Cursor Arrows (Left arrow, Right arrow, Up arrow and Down arrow) on the keyboard between the lettering keypad and the numbering keypad.

Now, go into the Edit screen and highlight the longest scene you have in your scene bin. (Generally speaking, the precise scene length doesn't matter, but it is easier to familiarize yourself with how the keys work if the scene is over 10 minutes.) Click on the on-screen Trim button, then click on the In button to set the In point.

At this point, you would normally begin scrolling to the right with the trackball to advance into the scene and set the In point. But by using the keyboard “fast scrolling” technique, however, you can move quickly through the scene just by pressing a button. Click on the keyboard's Right arrow key once. This moves the In point one frame into the scene. If you hit the right arrow key and hold it down, you will scroll through the scene in real time. The left arrow key works in the same fashion, only it scrolls back toward the beginning of the scene.

To move faster into the clip, hold down the Right arrow key and press the Control button at the same time. You will now scroll into the scene in three-minute increments instead of single-frame increments. (If both keys are pressed and the scrolling doesn't work, continue to press Control and release the Right arrow, then press the Right arrow again.) This can also be done with just one click by using the Page Up and Page Down buttons on the keyboard.

2. First/last frame jumps

If you hold down the Right (or Left) arrow and Control keys and then press the Shift key, you will instantly jump to the last selec-

table frame (using the Right arrow) or the first selectable frame (using the Left arrow).

You can also jump directly to the end of the scene by clicking the End button. This will instantly jump to the *last* selectable In point, which is one frame before the current Out point. Pressing the Home key will scroll you back to the *first* selectable In point, which is the very first frame of the scene. This can save you a lot of time when editing very long scenes.

3. Other editing shortcuts

The directional arrows will also work with the sliders on any screen in your Avio, whether it is the Storyboard Slider in the Edit screen, the sliders on the Color Selection Palette or the slider that allows you to scroll through the list of Transition options.

Simply click on the slider to enable it and then use the arrows to scroll up, down, left or right.

The ESC button in the upper-left corner works as an Abort button (it has the same effect as clicking the right trackball button).

Clicking the Enter button works as a Confirm button (it has the same effect as clicking the left trackball button).

4. Titling shortcuts

The following keys can be used as shortcuts while in the Enter/Edit text mode within the Titling screen.

F5 - Clicking this key is just like clicking on the Insert Page button in the Page Options screen: It inserts a page of text in front of the page you're currently working on.

F6 - This key adds a box to the page you are currently working on, just like clicking on the Add Box button.

F7 - Clicking this key will halve the Text Box you are working on into two separate text boxes. (If there is no Text Box, it will simply split the entire screen in half as if the text box filled it.)

It's best to split the box before entering any text. The Font and other text parameters will be the same for both new boxes unless you manually change them. Once the Text Box has been halved, simply move the cursor into the desired box and click left to make changes to the text in that box.

This can be particularly useful if you want to split credits on the left and right sides of the screen, or when you desire multiple columns of text.

To get multiple columns, click F7 once to split the box in half, then click on each half and click F7 again. This can be repeated as many times as necessary to produce the number of columns you need.

(Keep in mind, that since the boxes are being halved, it is only possible to get an even number of columns of the same width. To get an odd number of evenly spaced columns, you would have to create them manually.)

F8 - Clicking this is the same as clicking Size Box in the Page Options screen. This will allow you to change the size of the Text Box you are currently working on.

F9 - This is the same as clicking “Move Box” in the Page Options screen. Once the box has been moved to the desired location, left-click on the trackball to set the position and you will then have the option to re-size the box if necessary. Click left again to set the size, and you’ll be ready to edit text.

F10 - This deletes the Text Box you are currently working on (the same as clicking “Delete Box” in page Options)

Casablanca Avio

Q: How do I power up my Avio?

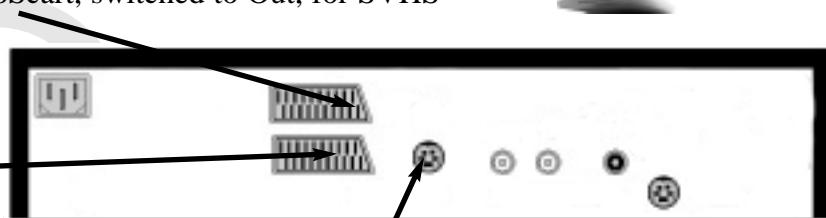
A: You can power up the Avio by pressing the power button on the front panel, in the upper left-hand corner.



Q: Should I use the top or bottom Euroscart port?

A: We suggest that you use the bottom EuroScart, switched to Out, for SVHS video, composite (RCA) video and audio output.

When switched to In, the bottom Scart can also be used for composite (RCA) video and audio in.



Q: Why is the SVHS footage that I recorded to my Avio through the Euroscart in black & white.

A: The bottom EuroScart can input composite (RCA) video only.

To input SVHS footage, use the SVHS port on the back of the Avio (next to the bottom EuroScart).

Q: The image on my monitor is in black & white, improperly aligned and/or scrolling.

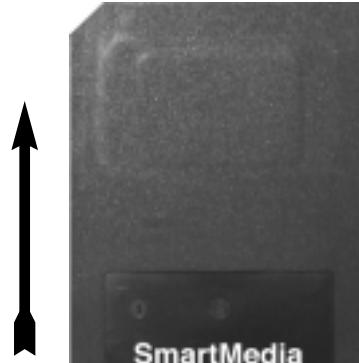
What's happening?

A: Your Avio has the European PAL software loaded on it. Install the NTSC version of software from the SmartMedia card in the box.

Q: How do I install software?

A: See page 1.10 of the Avio manual.

Turn the Avio off. Insert the SmartMedia card into the slot on the front of the machine (gold side down, notched end first), then turn the Avio on. When prompted, choose English, then OK. Click Installation, then Yes to the warning. Remove the SmartMedia card when prompted.



Q: When I record my finished project to tape, why does it have poor video quality?

A: Check the Video Output setting in the Avio's System Settings window. Choose CVBS if you are outputting to a composite (RCA) device. Choose YC for SVHS output.

Q: What kind of keyboard can I use with the Avio?

A: Use a PC-compatible USB keyboard without additional USB ports for other devices.

The SmartMedia card is inserted with the notch forward and to the left

Q: Why is there nothing on the tape when I try to record to my VCR? Why am I getting audio but no video when I try to record to my VCR?

A: The problem is the VCR's input setting. Most professional and consumer model VCRs enable you to "tell" the VCR where to look for the video signal. If the VCR is pointing to the wrong input, either nothing will be recorded, or possibly just audio will be recorded.

On a professional video deck, there may be a switch on the front that allows you to choose whether it is supposed to be recording from the Composite, S-Video or another input on the deck. Just make sure that this switch is set to whichever input you are plugged in to, and try recording again.

On a consumer type of VCR (particularly VHS and SVHS decks), it is sometimes harder to figure out how to set the input. Most VHS machines default to the coaxial video connector (the screw-on connector that carries Cable TV and antenna signals). The way in which these VCRs switch their input to S-video or composite varies greatly between different manufacturers and models.

- There may be a button on the front that says "TV/Video" or "Input Select."
- There may be buttons located only on the remote control.
- There may be a menu setting that must be changed on the On-Screen Display.
- Sometimes the different inputs are accessed by changing the channel selector to "AUX," "VIDEO" or "L-1."

For example, on some older consumer VCRs, you simply need to press an "Input" button on the remote control until the channel goes from a number to "AUX" on the screen. Then it looks at the RCA video and audio inputs on the back, and your setup is complete.

On some higher-end models like the JVC HR-S3500U SVHS deck, there are multiple steps that need to be taken in order to get it to look at the S-Video input. After turning the deck on, you need to push the TV/VCR button, which will allow you to see the VCR's blue screen and channel display on your monitor. Then push the menu button, call up the "Function Set" menu, skip to the second screen, and change the "Rear Aux Input" to S-Video. Back out to the blue screen and change the channel to "L-1" (not "F-1," which is the front inputs). After all of that, the VCR is ready to record from the S-Video inputs.

Unfortunately, the technicians here at Draco cannot possibly know how to change the inputs on every VCR, so they may not be of much help in many setup situations. But by consulting your VCR's manual, the manufacturer's web site or the dealer who sold you the equipment these answers can be easy to find.

Technical specifications and data

System

Processor: Intel Pentium MMX

Storage: Internal fixed 12 GB (LT) or 20 GB (ST) IDE hard drive. Software on Smart Media card, 4-32 MB capacity

Graphics: Integrated graphics and video display on TV

Memory: Integrated SDRAM

Connectors: 2 USB ports for keyboard, trackball, etc.

Video

Principle: MPEG-2 compression, editable, full IBB-frame method, dual stream decoding, real-time effects

Data rate: 0.3 –1.2 MB/Sec., Bitrate control

Inputs: Composite and SVHS, optional IEEE 1394

Outputs: Composite and SVHS, optional IEEE 1394

Standard: NTSC or PAL (software-based)

Audio

Principle: 3 stereo tracks, maximum 48 KHz, 16 Bit (CD quality)

Inputs: Stereo RCA, optional IEEE 1394

Outputs: Stereo RCA, optional IEEE 1394

Dimensions

Measurements: 17.7" x 3.5" x 13.4"

Weight: Approximately 11 lbs

A

- About this edition ii
- Adjustment controls (video) 2.5
- Archive
 - color 1.6-1.7
 - explained 1.7
 - text 1.7
- Audio input
 - explained 9.2
 - ports 1.8
- Audio mix 10.1-10.5
 - explained 10.1
- Audio quality 2.3
- Audio record 9.1-9.8
 - explained 9.1
- Audio split & trim 9.3-9.6
- Audio tracks
 - explained 10.1
 - icons 10.4

B

- Background audio track
 - adjusting volume 10.4-10.5
 - explained 10.1
- Bars 6.4
- Batch render 5.2
- Binarizer 7.4
- Blue box 7.1, A.13-A.15
- Bonus codes A.13, A.15
- Brightness 2.5
- Buttons
 - explained 1.4
 - quick play 1.4
 - shrink 3.2
 - single frame 1.5

- up/down 1.5
- video control 1.5
- with selectable options 1.5

C

- Cables 1.9
- CD-quality audio 2.3
- Circlewipe 6.4
- Code entry for additional software 2.2
- Color bars 4.7
- Color depth 7.4
- Color fade 6.4
- Color selection
 - explained 1.6
 - within the Special screen 4.7
- Color to gray 7.4
- Commentary audio track
 - adjusting volume 10.4-10.5
 - explained 10.1
- Composite cables (see RCA cables)
- Connecting the cables 1.8-1.0
- Contrast 2.5
- Control color 7.4
- Control image 7.4
- Copy button
 - audio 9.7
 - video 4.4
- Create (render)
 - i.p. effects 7.3
 - storyboard 5.2
 - titles 8.4
 - transitions 6.3
- Crossfade 6.4
- CVBS cables (see RCA cables)
- CVBS filter 7.4

D

Decibel/volume control

 mixing 10.4

 recording 9.2

Delete & undelete 4.4

Dissolve 6.4

Double exposure 6.4

Drop and use (splitting)

 audio 9.3

 video 4.5

Dynamic range 7.4

E

Edit screen (video) 4.1-4.12

 explained 4.1

Enter/edit text 8.4

F

Fade in/out (audio) 10.4

FAQs B.1

Field changer 6.5

Finish screen 5.1-5.2

 explained 5.1

Flip 7.4

Fonts

 attributes 8.6

 explained 8.6

G

Gate 6.5

Getting started 1.1-1.10

 internal/external tools 1.3-1.7

 installation 1.10

 opening the box 1.2

 set up 1.8-1.9

H

Hard drive (or “harddisk”)

 sizes available B.1

 system capacity 2.4

I

Icons 1.5

Image quality (see Video quality)

Image size 2.4

In and out points

 audio editing 9.5

 explained 1.4

 range (audio) 10.3

 video editing 4.6

Insert editing 4.12

Installation

 product 2.2

 SmartMedia 1.10

 software updates 1.10, 2.2

 system software 1.10

Interface controls

I.P. effects 7.1-7.5

 explained 7.1

 modifiers 7.3

 options 7.5-7.5

K

Keyboard

 attaching externally 1.8-1.9

 onscreen explained 8.5

 renaming scenes 4.3

L

Language setting 2.2

Left and right audio channels 9.8
Line art 7.4

M

Main screen 1.10
Mirror 7.4
Modifiers
 i.p. effects 7.3
 new scenes 4.7
 titles 8.2
 transitions 6.2
Mono 2.3
Mosaic 7.5
Mosaic (3d) 6.4
Mute 10.4

N

Negative 7.5
New project 2.3
NOP
 audio 9.8
 video 7.5

O

On/off button 1.3, A.1
Original audio track 10.1, 10.4
 changing the volume of 10.5
Out and in points (see In and out points)

P

Packaging 1.2
Page clap 6.5
Pages (titling) 8.7-8.8
Picture-in-picture 6.5
Ports 1.8-1.9

Power cable
 connecting 1.8
 in box 1.2
Preview
 i.p. effects 7.2
 titles 8.4
 transitions 6.3
Processor chip B.1
Project settings 2.3-2.4
 explained 2.3
Project selection 2.4
Projects
 new 2.3
 selection 2.4

Q

Quality settings
 audio 2.3
 video 2.3
Quick motion 4.8
Quick play buttons
 explained 1.4

R

Random lines 6.5
Range
 audio mix 10.3
 image processing 7.3
 insert editing 4.12
 titling 8.2

RCA

cables 1.9
ports 1.8-1.9
Scart adapter 1.2-1.3, 1.8
Real time effects 6.4

Index

- Record (audio)
 - button 9.3
 - screen 9.1-9.8
- Record (video) 3.1-3.2
 - button 3.2
 - screen 3.1
 - toolbar 3.2
- Record movie to VCR 5.2
- Rectangle 7.5
- Rectangle wipe 6.5
- Relief 7.5
- Renaming scenes 4.3
- Render (see Create)

- S**
- Sample (audio) 9.2, 9.7
- Sample-->scene 9.7
- Saturation
 - color selection 1.6
 - video settings 2.5
- Scale 6.5
- Scart
 - adapter explained 1.3
 - adapter in the box 1.2
 - explained 1.3
 - port 1.8
- Scene
 - area 4.3
 - explained 3.1
 - in scene bin 4.3-4.9
 - in storyboard 4.10-4.12
- Scene bin
 - explained 4.2
 - scene area 4.3
 - scene editing controls 4.3-4.12
 - scene info display 4.3
- Scene-->sample 4.9
- Scenes with selectable functions 1.5
- Screen icons 1.5
- Scroll bar (see Slider)
- Search and replace 4.11
- Settings screens 2.1-2.5
 - project 2.3-2.4
 - system 2.2
 - video 2.5
- Sharpen 7.5
- Shrink button 3.2
- Single frame advance button
- Slider 1.4
- Slow motion
- SmartMedia
 - explained 1.11
 - in box 1.2
- Soften
- Solarize 7.5
- Special
 - audio effects
 - motion effects 4.8-4.9
- Split
 - audio 9.3-9.4
 - video 4.5
- Software
 - installing 1.10
 - in box with the Avio 1.2
 - SmartMedia card 1.10
- Still 4.9
- Storyboard 4.10-4.12
 - explained 4.10
- Stripe fade 6.5
- Stripes (3d) 6.4
- S-video
 - cables 1.9
 - in Scart adapter 1.2-1.3, 1.8
 - ports 1.8-1.9

Index

Swap audio 9.8

System capacity 2.4

System settings 2.2

T

Table of contents i

Titling 8.1-8.8

explained 8.1

Trackball

connecting 1.8-1.9

explained 1.3

in box with the Avio 1.2

speed 2.2

Transitions 6.1-6.5

duration 6.3

explained 6.1

modifiers 6.2

options 6.4

Trim

audio 9.5-9.6

video 4.6

Tutorial A.1-A.12

U

Unpacking the Avio box 1.2

Up / down buttons 1.5

Use and drop (splitting)

audio 9.4

video 4.5

V

Video

control buttons 1.5

frame rate A.3

input 2.5

output 2.2

quality 2.3

settings 2.5

Volume (decibel) control

mixing 10.4

recording 9.2

Volume left and right 9.8

W

White balance 7.5

Workbox

audio mix 10.2

edit screen 4.10

i.p. effects screen 7.2

transitions screen 6.2

title screen 8.4

Z

Zoom 7.5